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BRITISH ANGLING FLIES

By

MICHAEL THEAKSTON.

EDITED BY

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

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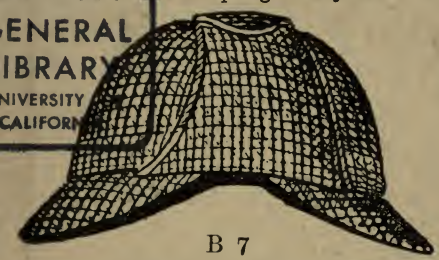

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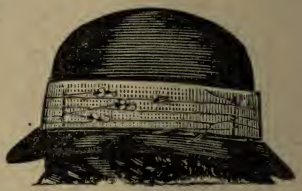

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BRITISH

ANGLING FLIES.

BY

MICHAEL THEAKSTON.

REVISED AND ANNOTATED BY

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Woodcut Illustrations; and Illustrated with Drawings of Natural Flies.

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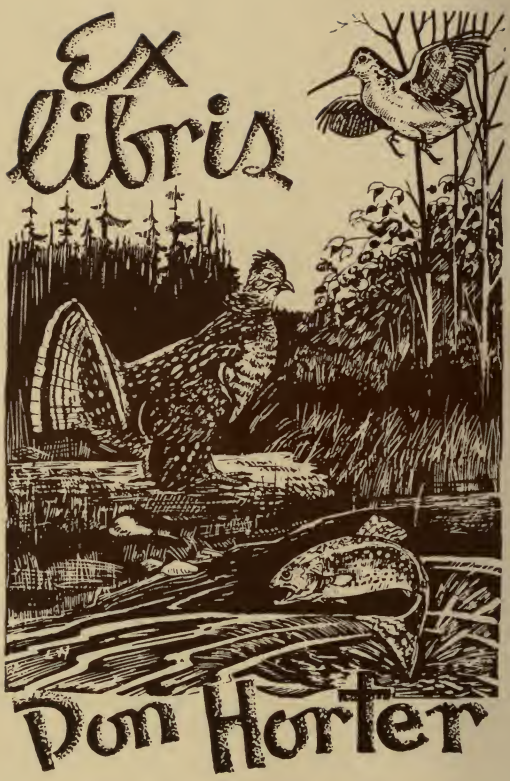
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1883

INDEX.

At the time this book was written, the angling flies were a mixed mass, without order or class, and without any descriptions of their kinds, sizes, shapes or colors. Their names were a chance medley given by the anglers of different streams, and what they were called on one water would rarely distinguish them on another. After years of examination of the flies for the purpose of imitation, it was observable that several of them were of the same shape, but differing in their sizes and colors, and that several more were of another shape, varying likewise in their sizes and colors. This hinted the system of separation according to shapes and construction, which divided the mixed mass of flies into seven distinct parts or classes. Researches were resumed each succeeding season, so long as any of the aquatic or land flies that are of interest to the flyfisher could be met with. They were generally taken alive, and were closely examined, measured, drawn, and described, and placed to their respective classes. This ultimately severed the mixed mass, and gave to each individual fly in the classes a "local habitation and a name." The design and order of their structure was by the great Architect that made them: He formed them in classes, and stamped each class with its own peculiar family likeness.

After the flies were divided into classes, it became neces-

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sary to give an appropriate name to each class, in order to distinguish them. Their names are as follows:—

PAGE.

1st Class, BROWNS.—From the prevailing color, which is brown, more or less mingled with orange and yellow. The Stone Fly is the largest of the class, and superior trout fly of the angler's list. There are eleven species, all termed Browns 2

2nd Class, DRAKES.—Named by the flyfishers of yore. The Drakes are the only class that have protective skins when they leave the water, in which they can fly about and cast off at leisure. Casting changes their color, and to appearance doubles their number. There are about sixteen different species, all of the name of Drake. The green, grey, and brown Drakes are the largest types of this class 3

3rd Class, DUNS, are named from their colors of deep sable hues to the light tinges and shades of an evening summer cloud in the setting sun. There are seventeen species, all named Duns, of which the red Dun is the largest species 5

4th Class, SPINNERS, are named from their round shoulders, long small bodies, narrow wings, and long legs. There are twelve species, all of the name of Spinners. The type of this class is the Jenny Spinner, or Harry Longlegs ... 7

5th Class, HOUSE FLY.—Named from their resemblance to the House Fly. There are seven species termed Flies ... 8

6th Class, BEETLES.—Nine species of their common name ... 9

7th Class, ANTS.—Their are two species of their common name 9

Few of the flies in these classes bear the old conventional names, which do not fall in with this arrangement; most of them having been given without regard to distinction or description. The terms "Browns," "Drakes," "Duns," and "Spinners," are significant and proper, and are of very ancient usage by flyfishers, but the *misapplication* of them has ever caused great confusion. Thus all the "Drake"

class, except the green and grey, before casting their skins, are commonly, but erroneously, termed "Duns," and after casting "Spinners." The terms "Dun" and "Spinner" are misapplied; they and the other class names can only be applied to flies of their own shape and class. In the following list every fly is surnamed after its class; which distinguishes its shape, and the additional name or names given from color or other peculiarities, distinguishes one species or fly from another, and gives their sizes and colors, as "*Red* BROWN," "*Golden Legged* BEETLE," "*Sand* FLY," &c., &c.

FEBRUARY.

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6th, *Red* BROWN ...	"Red Fly," "Coch-y-bonddu" of Wales.	15

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7th, *Early* DUN 17

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PREFACE.

MANY and great have been the improvements that have taken place in matters piscatorial during the past twenty years, and were the author of this little work now alive, he would no doubt be only too glad to admit the advantages that anglers have derived from them.

Born in the ancient city of Ripon, upon the banks of the Yore, and from early boyhood passionately fond of anything connected with fish or fishing, he pursued his favourite sport until a year or so previous to his death, which took place at the ripe old age of eighty. A short time ago I had the pleasure of inspecting the original manuscripts of this work, and at the same time had a most interesting conversation with one of the author's daughters; many were the happy days, she informed me, that she had spent with her father, acquiring knowledge into the inmost secrets of insect life, or accompanying him on some angling excursion during the long summer days. I may add that this lady sketched from nature the whole of the flies depicted in this book, so that evidently her father's lessons were not thrown away. Although I am a great advocate for the system of matching your artificial flies with the natural ones

upon the water at the time of fishing, still I am of opinion that an unnecessary number of patterns only confuses the tyro; the author gives a list of ninety varieties, I have gone through the whole carefully, one by one, and have come to the conclusion that from thirty to forty of them are amply sufficient to meet the requirements of the angler, not only upon the Yorkshire rivers, but upon any stream. Theakston has adopted a nomenclature entirely his own, and great has been the amount of both time and labour that I have expended upon the identification of some of his patterns; many of them are merely reproductions of different shades of the same fly, and it saves an immensity of trouble to adopt the plan in the first instance advocated by Mr. Francis, and later on by David Foster, viz., to keep a good stock of Browns, Duns, and Spinners of different shades, and adapt them to the various contingencies of water and weather. To such flies as I consider almost indispensable to the wandering angler I have appended foot notes, giving the name by which the fly is more generally known, and also any comments that I have thought might possibly prove of interest.

For some of the information contained in those notes I must acknowledge my indebtedness to several sources, among which I may mention the works of Ronalds, Jackson, "Ephemera," and Blacker, also last, but by no means least, that splendid volume edited by Mr. W. H. Aldam, which illustrates, by means of actual dressed flies and their component parts, the patterns recommended by an old Derbyshire flyfisher who lived

almost a century ago. I also tender my cordial thanks to Mr. F. Francis and Mr. R. B. Marston, who have both of them been most kind in rendering me valuable assistance whenever I chose to apply for it, the first-named gentleman especially took great trouble in discovering the identity of several patterns, with which I was completely puzzled, owing to the ambiguity of some of the author's expressions.

The patterns of both Theakston and Jackson have long been considered as standard flies for the Yorkshire rivers, especially on the Yore and Wharfe. Jackson resided at Tanfield Mill, on the banks of the former river, about the year 1850, and here may still be found his old fishing hut, *à la* Walton and Cotton, and a square stone slab with the inscription "Amicitiæ et piscatoribus sacrum." I have however tested most of their patterns upon other streams in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and North Wales, and have invariably found them quite as seductive as the local flies. Owing to the streamy nature of the majority of the Yorkshire rivers, spider flies sparsely dressed generally answer the best, although there are certain conditions of water and weather when it will be found more profitable to employ a winged pattern at the end of a fine-drawn gut cast and floated dry, as in the Hampshire style.

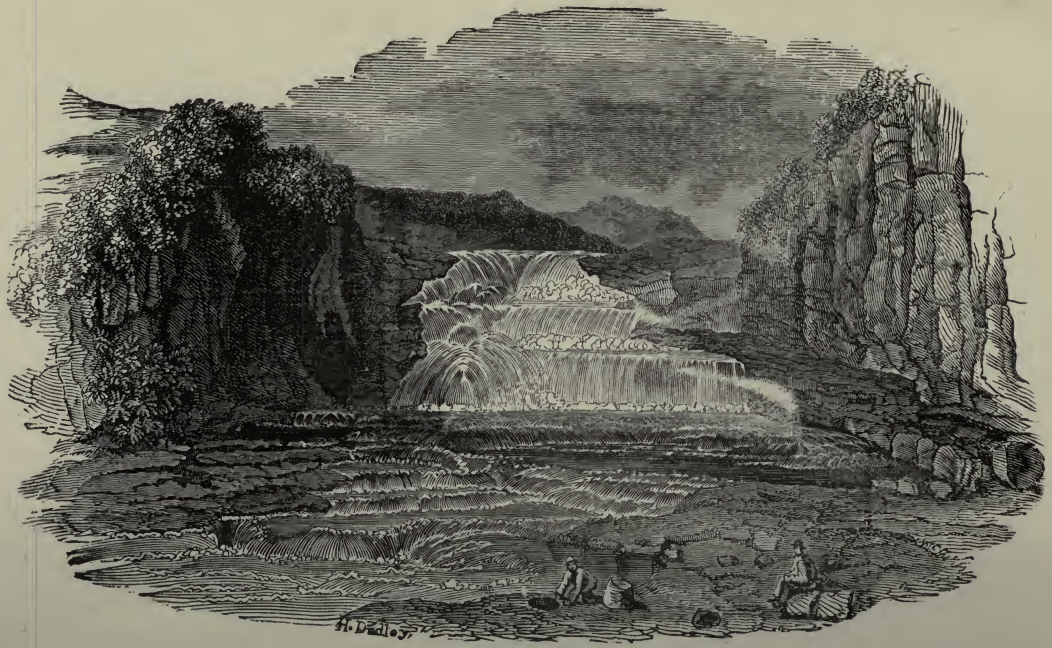
I consider myself that no higher compliment could have been paid to the former editions of this book than the opinion expressed by Mr. Francis in his "Book on Angling," in which he characterizes it as "Theakston's capital little work on the streams about Ripon." The

praise of such an authority and such an angler would indeed have been deemed by old Michael a fitting reward for what he terms, in his closing remarks, the work of the idle hours casually spent during fifty seasons. Theakston was himself a born angler—a man who did not pursue the art for the sake of gain or the force of imitation, but purely for the love of the sport; his chapters upon the creepers of the various Browns, Duns, and Drakes (as he terms them), and the "Extracts from Note Books," amply prove the immense amount of research necessary to arrive at such conclusions, whilst some of his comments upon the various months breathe forth a freshness and simplicity which stamp him at once as a fervent admirer of the works of Nature. None of the original text of the book has been interfered with in the least—even the remarks on smelt fishing, which is now illegal, being allowed to stand as in former editions; as previously stated, any alterations or comments that I have deemed necessary having been made by means of foot notes. As the author appears to have devoted more attention to the capture of trout than grayling, and as a number of killing patterns for grayling flies have been invented during the past twenty years, I have thought it better to add a separate chapter upon that subject, and also one touching briefly upon the various rivers and angling stations throughout Yorkshire. The two concluding chapters, "A Day on the Yore," and "In Memoriam," will no doubt be old friends to many of my readers, having been contributed to an angling paper some time ago; I introduce them

into the present work to take the place of an "Addenda," which was merely a reproduction of what the author had stated before respecting the various baits suitable for each month; in doing so, if an apology be owing to my readers, I will plead as an excuse that the first-named article is descriptive of a day's sport upon one of the Yorkshire streams with which I have had to deal in the present work; and that the latter was written in affectionate remembrance of one of the dearest friends and companions that I ever had in this world, and but for whose influence I might possibly never have had occasion to reiterate the expression made use of by Mr. Francis, in one of his delightful angling essays—"Thank God for making me a fisherman."

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Pool, Wharfedale,
April, 1883.



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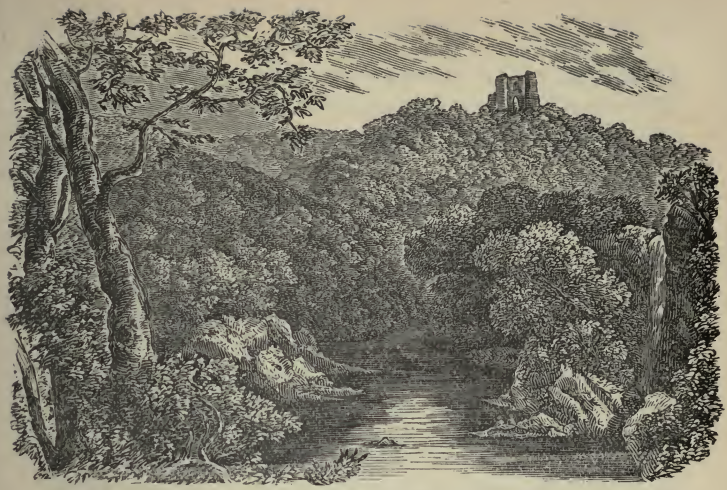

ON THE RIVER YORE, HACKFALL.

THE CLASSES.

TROUT, Grayling, and Smelt, the treasures of the streams and the delight of the flyfisher, feed on numbers of natural flies of different kinds, which for better distinction may be divided into the following classes. Each class contains many distinct species or families that differ from each other in their sizes and colors, but are alike in their shape and construction, which classes them naturally together not to be mistaken. The classification of shape with the descriptions of sizes and color, may serve as guides to the different species of each class, with a view that they may be distinguished and known whenever they meet the eye of the flyfisher.

1ST.—BROWNS.—The browns claim priority in the angler's list, they are all bred in the water, and are of the same shape and construction as the stone fly, which is the largest of the class, and the needle brown is the smallest; they have three shoulder joints that join together in a line with the head and body, which gives the length and cylindrical

form of the carcase of the fly [see Creeper]. Their bodies are smooth and fleshy, consisting of eight or nine joints, or rings, and is about the length of the head and shoulders. At the breast of each shoulder there is a pair of legs, and they have two pairs of smooth oblong wings, which, when folded, circle close over and beyond the body in a round cylindrical form, giving most of the species the appearance of a short piece of wire. The top wings shew veiny, and stand on the middle shoulder; the under wings stand on the shoulder which joins the body. They have two feelers at the head, and most of them two whisks at the tail. Their most prevailing color is brown, from which they are named, on a yellow or orange ground; and are very quick runners both on land and water. All the class are day flies, except the stone fly, which sometimes steal out in the gloom of dark days, but generally in the dusk and twilight of night. They are the earliest and latest angling flies; most of the species hatch in the spring, but some are on the water nearly the seasons round. Some species, like the stone fly, hatch the main swarm in two or three weeks, and their generation disappear for the year; others, like the needle brown, continue hatching and breeding through the season. The streams of Ripon produce them in great numbers, and all fish that take flies feed off them greedily—for trout they may be considered the leading class. The following species are in the class:

Needle Brown	Page 11
Early Brown (or Winter Brown)	13
Little Early	13
Red Brown	15
Royal Charlie	20
Light Brown	23
Mottled Brown	25
Stone Fly	28
Bloa Brown	36
Yellow Brown (Yellow Sally)	43
Orange Brown	70

2ND.—DRAKES.—The Drake genus claims next the attention of the flyfisher; they are all bred in the water. The green drake is the largest, and the pattern fly of the class —the white drake is the smallest. They have close thick shoulders and smooth taper bodies, which curve upwards like the feathers in the tail of a drake—from which it is said they are named. Their bodies consist of eight or nine joints or rings of a dim transparency, and in length near two-thirds of the fly; they have a pair of smooth oblong wings which, when at rest, stand upright like those of a butterfly, and are generally about the length of the fly, and better than half the breadth; a diminutive wing stands at the root of each large one; and they have two or three hairs in the tail. They are indifferent runners on both land and water, and will suffer themselves to be taken up by the wings. They are not so hardy as the browns; their shoulders and bodies are naked and exposed, but nature has furnished them with a temporary covering to protect them from the cold, which they cast off when it is no longer required. They are hatched and take wing, a perfect fly, in this protective covering, which is a thin filmy skin, that fits close to all the parts, and obscures or tinges the real colors of the fly; at its own time, probably when the weather suits, it bursts open its temporary covering at the shoulders, in the same way as it did the creeper case [see Creeper], and comes out generally a different color, giving it the appearance of a different fly. The wings are then more transparent and sparkling, the colors more distinct, and the whole fly, as if imbued with fresh spirit, is more smart and active. They then sport on the wing, and assemble together into those groups or swarms we see about the waters in summer evenings, usually called spinners, when they are in their matured state and last dress. Individuals vary in each species of the Drake class: some may be seen with very long fore legs, long hairs or whisks in the tail, and case eyes, which seem placed on a flat or convex projection from each side of the top of the head;

but are most observable after casting their skins. Some species, like the Green Drake, hatch their main body in two or three weeks, and soon after disappear for the season; others, like the iron blue, continue hatching successively through it. They are a delicate and beautiful class of flies, of various sizes, colors and shades—abounding in all their varieties in vast numbers, in the streams of Ripon, and are general favorites with fish. The class contains the following species:

Blue Drake (Blue Dun)	Page 17
Orange	18
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Dark (Dark Watchet)	39
Dark Red	39
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Light Red	45
Black	50
Black Red	50
Green	51
Grey	55
White	56
Vermillion	62
Spotted Whisk	70
Coral-eyed	71
Pale Blue	72

3RD.—DUNS.—The red dun is the largest of the dun tribes, and the representative of this class; the least freckled dun is the smallest mentioned here. They have two long feelers, small heads, short necks, and small jumped-up shoulders; their bodies consist of eight or nine joints, are rather longer than the head and shoulders, and a little

thicker in the middle; they have two pairs of large wings set near the head, the under ones of some fold double, and all close together along the back and slope down over the sides like the roof of a house, in an irregular triangular form—commencing like a point at the shoulders and growing broader to the ends. The top of the head, shoulders, and exposed parts of the folded wings, are in general set with a fine short down, which fringes the edges of the wings, and glistens in the sun with rich reflections; the under wings and parts are plain; their thighs are thick and fleshy, their legs long, and set with like small feet similar to the moths—to which they seem akin; and they sport on the wing much more in the dusk and twilight than in the day time; they are in general tender and susceptible of cold—a warm evening shews many of the species up in great numbers, when they are very active and nimble, flying off in quick whirls and rounds, and running exceedingly fast. They are a very numerous class, of various sizes, colors, and mottles, varying in shade from the light coppery tinge to the deep dun hue of the thunder cloud, which has named them. They are all bred in the water, from creepers, that are enclosed in artificial cases, singularly composed around them for their preservation; most of them swarm twice a year. The following species have been under notice:

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Some of these three classes of aquatics are hatching and on the water throughout the season; and by their daily appearance become known to the fish, and form part of their daily food. The smooth wings and fleshy bodies of the browns and drakes prevail in streams like the Ure; the duns are often plentiful and well taken in such as the Laver and Skell. The three classes comprise a store for selection that may serve for every day in the season.

4TH.—SPINNERS.—This class is intended to include those long-legged slender tribes of flies, called here jenny spinners; the grey spinner is the largest of the class, and the heron spinner the smallest that is mentioned here. They have small heads and smaller necks, large rounded shoulders and small cylindrical bodies, consisting of about nine joints, from two-thirds to three-fourths the length of the fly. They have in general two small feelers and a small trunk or brush at the nose; they have six long small legs, and a pair of long narrow wings—some slanting upwards from the shoulders, others laying horizontally on each other over the back. In cold weather they are weak, and fly heavy, but when warm and suitable they take lofty flights. There are vast varieties of them, many of very delicate texture and rich colors. Some are bred on land and some in the water; and all are very natural and attractive to the fish.

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Little Spotted . . . . . 49.
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Black 57
Blue (Gnat) 57
Late Black (Gnat). 73

5TH.—HOUSE FLY.—The flies of this class resemble the house fly in having large heads, thick shoulders and body, which is about half the length of the fly, with a pair of clear oblong wings which lie flat or horizontal, and point more or less from the body. They are principally bred on land, but being exceedingly numerous, many fall casually on the water and are taken by the fish.

Lion Fly (Cowdung) . . . Page 21
Black (or Midge) 24
House 25
Bluebottle 26
Bee or Bank 32
Hawthorn 37
Oak (Woodcock or Downlooker) . . 48

6TH.—BEETLE.—The outer parts of the beetle are hard and shelly, and the shoulders are united to the body by a flexible joint which enables them to turn and steer; the fore legs are attached to the shoulder, and the other four to the shelly breast plate. They have two pairs of wings, the upper ones hard, which stand close to the shoulder plate, and fold over a pair of soft ones and the upper parts of the body. They are of an oblong or oval shape, more or less flattened. Many of them are bred in the water, and are very natural food for fish; and are a very numerous class. The colors and sizes of the following species are very attractive, and suitable for imitations for the small flyfisher.

Golden-legged Beetle . . . Page 19
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Mealy Brown 47
Brown 47
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7TH.—ANT.—The Ant genus, which includes the pismire tribes, consists of many species, that live in communities, often of immense numbers, and are dispersed over the fields and in the woods, in places of their own peculiar choice. A portion of each community are annually furnished with wings; and in the summer season, at their appointed time, fly off and leave the colony as bees do their hives, when numbers fall on the neighbouring streams and are readily nipped up by the fish. The working portion of the community have large hawk-like heads, and large oval bodies —which are united by two or three comparatively very small shoulder joints, to which their legs are attached, but those that have wings appear to have but one jumped-up shoulder, as thick as their bodies, and united by a small, hair-like link; they have two jointed feelers, which they make constant use of, and run exceedingly fast. Some species have one, and some two pair of thin glassy wings, which fall flat over the back and reach beyond the end of the body; the top ones are the length of the ant. Their colors vary, shading from black to red and the lightest amber. They are brilliant little gems on the top of the water, sparkling with short gilded reflections and rich transparencies. Descriptions of these two species may suffice for the whole; their most striking difference being but in size and shades of the above colors

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Black Ant Fly 67

On Creepers . . . . . Page 103
Artificial Flies 111

1st. Browns.

2nd. Drakes.

3rd. Duns

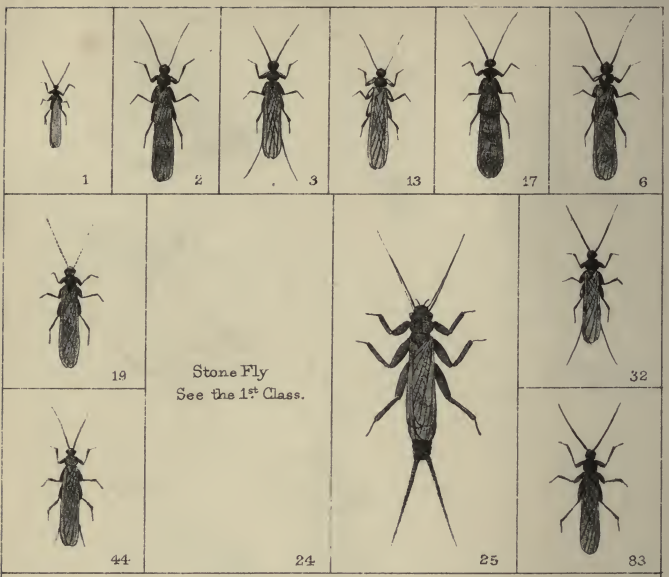
4th. Spinners.

5th. House Fly

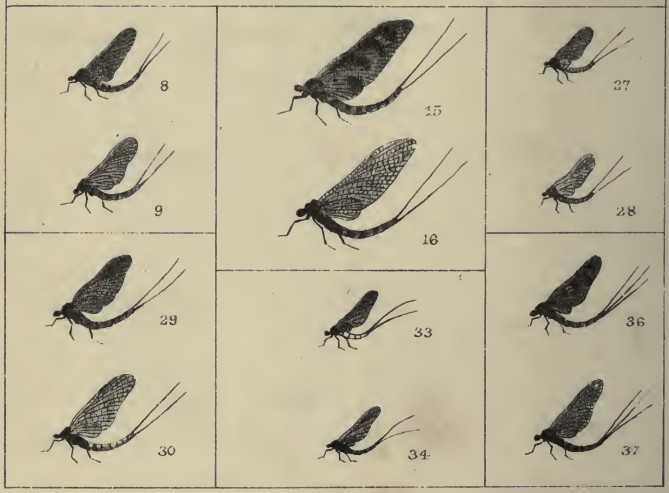
6th. Beetle.

7th. Ant Fly.

BROWNS.



DRAKES.



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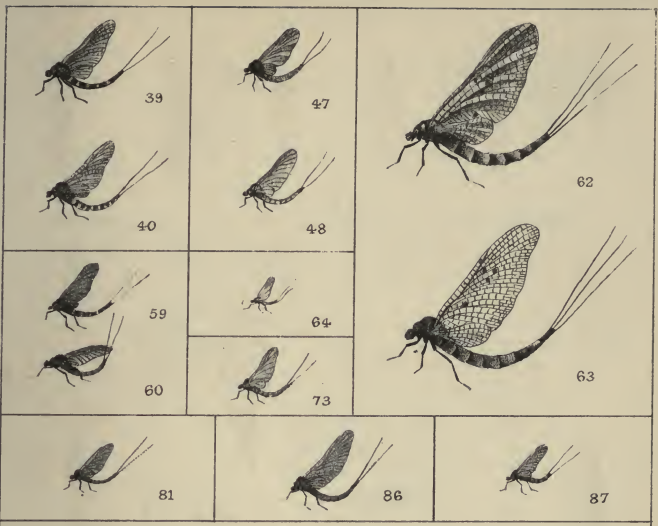
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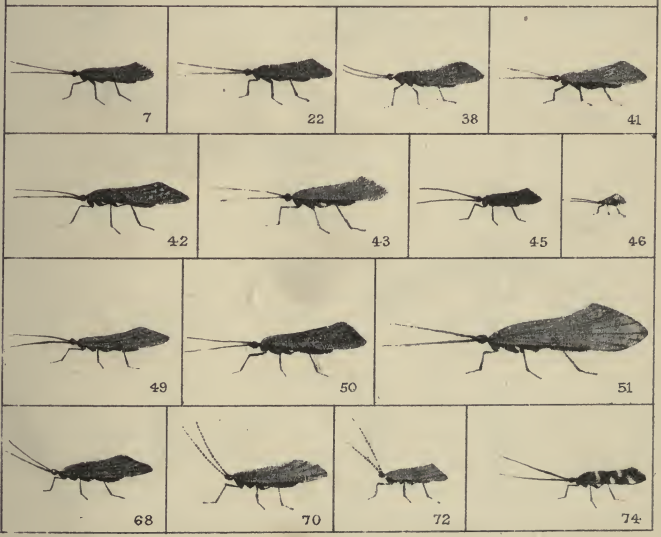
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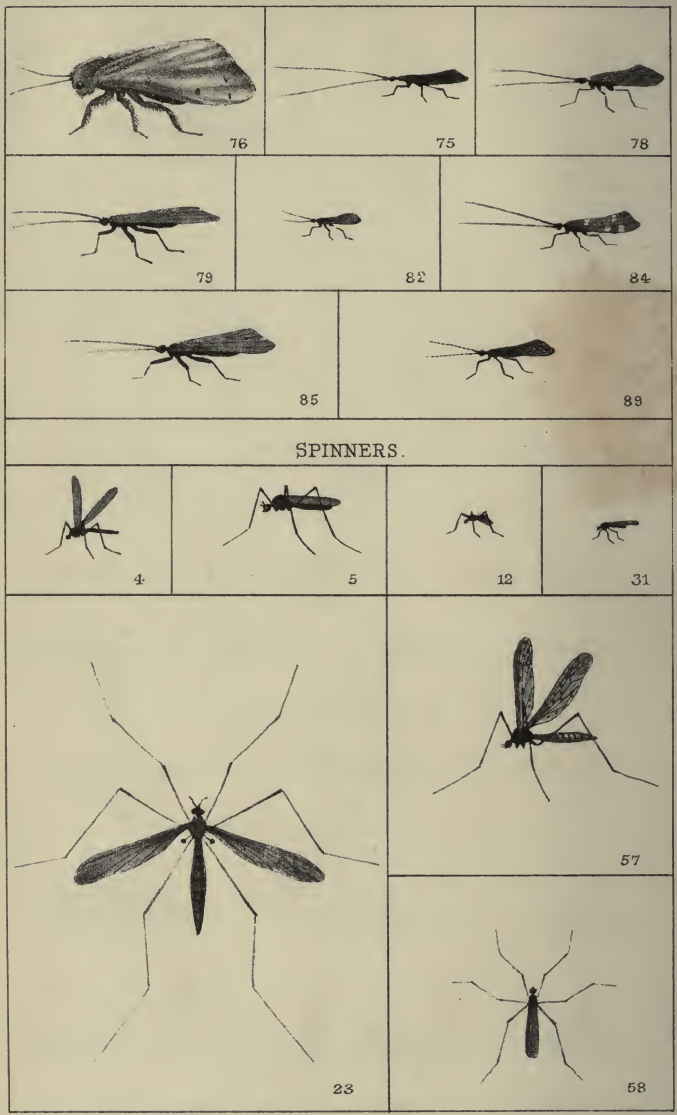
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SPINNERS.

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1ST CLASS BROWNS & THEIR CREEPERS.

1st Stone Fly & Creeper.

2nd Needle Brown & Creeper.

3rd Yellow Brown & Creeper.

2ND CLASS DRAKES & THEIR CREEPERS.

4th Green Drake & Creeper.

5th Brown Drake & Creeper

6th Coral Ey'd Drake & Creeper.

3rd CLASS DUNS & THEIR CREEPERS.

7th Red Dun, Creeper & Artificial Case.

10th Least Freckled Dun Creeper & Artificial Case.

8th Light Dun, Creeper & Artificial Case

9th Freckled Dun, Creeper & Artificial Case.

1st Browns

2nd Drakes.

3rd Duns

4th Spinners

5th House Flies.

6th Beetles.

7th Ants.

Hackle.

Black Earwig.

THE LIST OF FLIES.

FEBRUARY.

THE feathered choristers resume their song—the starved trout begins to stir as winter retires, and he courts the genial currents—grayling glide in the calms, and smelt abide in the deeps. Few are the flies and short the intervals of flyfishing during the days of February—an hour or two before, and after noon, opens and closes the sport for the day; and often for days, and sometimes the whole month, the weather and water forbid flyfishing.

1ST.—THE NEEDLE BROWN.[1]—Full length,* a quarter to a quarter and one-sixteenth; length, short of a quarter,

(1) This fly is a great favourite of mine during the early spring and autumn months; it would be a most valuable auxiliary to the flyfisher if it could be accurately imitated, but owing to its diminutive size, this is by no means an easy task. The author is far more explicit in his description of the fly itself, than he is in the mode of dressing it, his term, "fine fleshy grizzled hair," being very ambiguous, although I have no doubt that he knew perfectly well himself what was intended by the expression. Mr. Francis has on several occasions written at some length upon the merits of this fly, and in his *Book on Angling* gives the following pattern, with which I have killed a good many grayling on both the Yore and Wharfe—all depends however on the fly being dressed very neat and fine. Body, a fine shred from the yellowish quill of a thrush's wing; legs, a grizzled blue dun cock's hackle; under wings, starling's feather, used sparingly, and above them two fine slips of hen blackbird's wing. The late James Ogden, of Cheltenham, who was a veteran angler, sent me, about three or four years ago, some patterns of this fly, which he had copied, from nature, and very excellent imitations they were. Jackson alludes to it as the small Willow Fly. Wade, in *Halcyon*, styles it the Spanish Needle, but Ronald's, in his standard work on Flies, does not mention it at all; it kills well in September and October, when I prefer it dressed hacklewise with a feather from inside of a snipe's wing, using yellow silk, with a little mole's fur for body.

* "Full length" is the length from the nose to the ends of the folded wings, where they lie close over the back like the stone fly, &c., and extend beyond the end of the body.

"Length" is the length of the flies in parts of an inch, measured from the extremity of the face or nose to the end of the body.

wings near a quarter, which close very small over the body with a brown horny shine upon them; of lighter or darker shade, and dim transparency; shoulders and body dark brown and shiny. Some shew orange at the joints, thighs, legs, and feelers, from a light fleshy grizzle to a dark, red brown, dim transparency.

This is their winter appearance; as the season advances they vary from this description in both sizes and colors; in April they come out of the water in great numbers, and when just hatched, their legs are of a hair-like fleshy grizzle, and their folded wings a glossy steely blue, and bloa transparency; the females have a dim orange line running down the back; when in full perfection their bodies are a rich orange color, with a black spot on each joint, along each side, which indicates their time of breeding, when their full length is three-eighths and some to half an inch; they are the smallest of the brown class, and the most durable of all angling flies; they are hatching nearly throughout the year, and are the flyfisher's daily companion; in severe frosts the warm sun draws them out and enables them to take wing; they increase as the summer advances, and in autumn are the most numerous of all the aquatic flies, and are excellent for grayling and smelt to the end, when they are left alone to face the rigours of winter. On the Nidd they call them the Spanish Needle, from their steely hue and small lengthy appearance. Some, probably the males, leave the water when their wings are only in the bud, and may often be seen this month and next, running on the tops of posts and large stones, by the water sides, when the sun shines warm upon them.

Their bodies are imitated with fine bright orange or yellow silk, more or less waxed, shoulders darkest; various feathers are used to represent the wings; bloa from under the judcock or snipe; brown from the water rail or swift; purple from the cock pheasant's neck; and the blue grizzle

from the rump of the fieldfare, dressed hackle-wise, with a few fibres of fine fleshy grizzle hair or fur wrought in at the breast, but all must be very small.

2ND.—THE EARLY BROWN[2] (dark or winter brown)—full length, near or about five-eighths of an inch; length, from three-eigths to three-eighths and one-sixteenth; wings and feelers near half an inch; head, shoulders, and body, a dark brown soil color; legs and thighs a dark red brown dim transparency; wings, when folded, have a dark brown grizzly hue and horny shine upon them, broken with dark veins, and three or four wavy stripes across, of a darker shade, which are more or less visible; the under sides dark, when looked through singly to the light are of a dim brown transparency, shewing the dark veins. They commence hatching the beginning of this month, and continue to the end of April.

Body, head, and shoulders, orange silk, waxed; feathers for wings from under the wing of the woodcock, of double shade of color, with a few fibres of dark red brown mohair wrought in at the breast for legs.

3RD.—THE LITTLE EARLY BROWN.—Full length, three-eighths to half an inch; feelers and whisks, one-eighth to one-fourth; head, shoulders, breast, and body, dark brown, and rather shiny, with a slight down upon them, which reflects in the sun a deep gild; feelers, legs, and thighs, a dark, dim, red brown transparency, with faint deep gilded reflection; folded wings, a grizzly brown hue, veined, and of a brown transparency. They are broader than the needle brown, and probably males to the early brown; they hatch the beginning of this month, and continue through April.

Hackled with a feather from under the swift's wing;

(2) A favourite early spring trout fly among Yorkshire anglers, and usually denominated by them "Woodcock and Orange." Jackson calls it the "Little Brown," and his dressing is essentially the same as the author's.

body, orange silk, waxed, with a few fibres of red brown mohair at the breast.

4TH.—EARLY SPINNER.—Full length, near three-eighths; length, better than one-fourth; wings, full one-fourth, fine and clear, veined lengthways, and tinged light brown; thighs and legs long and small, of a dull reddish transparency; is a very slender fly; hatches this month, and continues through April; body and shoulders a light leady grey color.

Winged or hackled with a feather in the redwing's wing; body, yellowish, ashy silk; legs, a dark red brown hackle; must be dressed very small and slender.

5TH.—GRAVEL SPINNER[3] (Spider Fly).—Full length, about a quarter of an inch; wings lie one upon another over the back, and extend a little beyond the body; they are fine and clear, but when closed have a darkish blue shine upon them; body, a dark ashy, leaden hue, rather lighter at the joints; legs, a dark grizzly brown dim transparency; is a thicker fly than the early spinner, and much darker in color. Commence hatching this month.

Body, lead or ashy colored silk; winged or hackled with a starling's feather or the blue bloa of a crow, with a few fibres of dark brown mohair at the breast.

This description is of the early hatchings of the gravel spinners, just after they come out of the water. In the beginning of May they assemble together in great numbers, on dry sand beds by the water sides, where they may be

(3) Mr. Ronalds speaks very highly of this fly, which is however not found upon all streams. I have generally found it kill best under the conditions named by him, viz., in May (the latter part) when the weather is bright and the water low and clear. Mr. Aldam, in his unique work on artificial flies, recommends for the wings a covert feather outside a woodcock's wing, next to the quill feather, and this imitates the natural fly very well. The same authority also states that this fly, in its earlier stage of existence, is not known much to the fish, but that later in the season, when it has grown larger and richer in colour, it is taken with avidity both by trout and grayling, the latter fish however not being fit to take at that season of the year.

seen in quick rambling motion. Their full length is then three-eighths to three-eighths and one-sixteenth; length, three-eighths; wings, three-eighths, which, when folded, lie one upon the other over the back, and extend a little beyond the end of the body; they are then of a brown tinge and transparency, with dark veins; head, shoulders, and body, a dark leady color; a glass shews a few fine short hairs or down on the body, which reflects in the sun copper or gild; legs, a dark brown dim transparency—the hind ones five-eighths in length. They are out from morning until near night; and are excellent flies during their existence, which may be until near the end of spring.

They are usually hackled with a feather out of the woodcock's wing, lead colored silk, and legged with a black red hackle or coppery silk, tinged with water rat and a few fibres of red brown mohair, but must be made smart and fine.

6TH.—THE RED BROWN.[4]—Full length from half an inch and one-sixteenth to five-eighths; length, better than three-eighths; feelers, three-eighths to half an inch; wings, near half an inch, which are of a light red brown ground, broken with veins of darker, and three faint fleecy patches of darker shade, which run across, the most distinct in the

(4) The author, in the index of flies, terms this the "Coch-y-bondhu of Wales," an error on his part, as the latter is intended for an imitation of the "Fern Web, or Bracken Clock," a small beetle which abounds during the warm sunny weather of June and July, whereas the "Red Brown" is evidently synonymous with the "Red Fly" of Ronalds, the "February Red" of Francis, and the fly which is termed the "March Brown" in some parts of Derbyshire, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, and which is fully described by Mr. Aldam; he gives two patterns of this fly, one for its first appearance and the other when it becomes lighter, further on in the season as described above by the author. Since I gave these two patterns a trial, I have had recourse to no other, always finding them kill when the natural fly is on the water, I therefore append them both. First pattern:—wings from the outside feather of a partridge's tail; legs, a feather from a jenny wren's tail; body, medium shade of orange tying silk, and the red-brown fur from back of a fox's ear. Second pattern:—dressed as a hackle fly with the grey mottled feather from the butt of a woodcock's wing, and lightish brown floss silk; Mr. Aldam adds that the latter named feathers must be procured from the large birds, and that there are not more than ten suitable feathers in each wing.

middle. As the summer advances they grow lighter in shade; the under side of the folded wings of some appear as light as the outer skin of a dried onion; when looked through singly to the light, the red brown tinge is faint, and all the fly appears of a light red or amber dim transparency, brightening with light; head, shoulders, and body, a light red brown, with touches of darker shade; legs and thighs a dim pale-ale transparency; the males are less, and their colors rather darker. They commence hatching about the middle of this month; when they are darkest in color; and continue to the end of April. They are fine trout flies, and in March and April very numerous.

Wings, from the landrail, or a slightly broken feather from a light freckled brown hen, or selected from the brown owl; orange or yellow silk for body, with a few fibres of mohair or squirrel's fur at the breast, in imitation of the legs.

NOTE FOR FEBRUARY.—These are the earliest hatchings of the aquatic angling flies, and the first of the season to raise and cheer the lone trout—the harbingers of his better days; the warm sun draws out the firstlings of these hardy families; and they increase in numbers as the season advances, and the weather permits. They may be fished, especially the browns, in the middle of the day, when the weather and water permits, with the black, silver, and golden hackles.

MARCH.

MARCH brightens the dark brows of old winter—the sun's increasing power confronts resisting frosts and storms; and in the strife of elements, their subtle agent, the shifty wind, blusters or breathes their mute decrees—if his bright eye illumine the eastern horizon, chill winter yet prevails—

still, sol's charioteer drives on, animating and restoring with new life, and often

> Trout rise voracious in the wild March day,
> And hungry homer in the snow storms prey;
> Smelt sports in his prime, his second winter past;
> Flies follow flies in thick succession fast;
> Nature revives; animation crowds the land;
> And the sport lengthens as the days expand.

7TH.—THE EARLY DUN.—Full length from three-eighths to half an inch; length, one-fourth and one-sixteenth; feelers, three-eighths; the closed wings are brown, of the cinnamon cast, which, with the head, are laid and fringed with a fine down, which glistens in the sun with coppery and gilded reflections; there are some with lighter marks or staddles, on the top parts of the wings, and light spots round the end. The body is a copper bottom, tinged on the back and belly with light purple or blue dun, leaving a line of lighter on each side, which is characteristic of most of the duns; legs, a light reddish brown dim transparency. They hatch the beginning of this month; and are out in the afternoon and evenings of warm days—their eggs are a cream color.

Winged with slips from a feather from an old bronzed brown hen, or selected from the brown owl; legged with a few fibres of gingery squirrel's fur or mohair; body, copper colored silk, tinged with water-rat's blue fur.

8TH.—BLUE DRAKE[5] (blue dun).—Length, near three-

(5) Few of the aquatic insects bear a higher reputation among anglers than this fly, which is found upon almost every river in England; it is called by a variety of names, according to the district, the "Blue Dun," or the "Blue Upright," being perhaps the most general title for it. It varies much in shade of colour, according to the weather, and therefore three or four different patterns should be kept in the fly book; Jackson styles it the "Olive Bloa," and in practice I have generally found either his pattern or else that given by Mr. Francis in his *Book on Angling* the best to depend on; nearly all the patterns of this fly that are sold in the shops are far too rough in the body, which is in reality smooth, and ringed in alternate shades of dark and light olive. Mr. Cummins, the well-known practical angler, of Bishop Auckland, dresses a pattern which he calls the "Blue Dun Spider," intended to represent a drowned fly, and on cold windy days in early spring it answers admirably, as I can testify to from experience.

eighths; wings, three-eighths; whisks, a quarter to half an inch, with two small short feelers; top of head, shoulders, and down the back a bluish ashy hue, of lighter or darker shade, upon an orange bottom; rather lighter along the sides; along the breast and belly, and on the edges of each joint; thighs, a light grizzly hair-like transparency, with a gleam of amber, and darkening to the feet. Wings, faintly veined, longitudinally, and of a dim transparency of a fine smoky blue tinge. When the fly is held to the light, its tinges and reflections are of a light grizzly blue cast.

Slips for wings are generally selected from those of the starling; body, orange silk, tinged and dyed with fox-cub down, and two or three fibres of amber mohair.

The blue drake hatches the first of the drake tribes—commencing last month, if the weather be open; and it is very probable she continues through the season; she hatches on fine days, in good numbers, from nine or ten in the morning to three or four in the afternoon, and continues a favorite leader through the spring. Like all the drakes, she is most successful when fished in her natal garb, at the time she is hatching; she is a hardy fly, and will hatch in cold weather, if it be tolerably dry and open, when there is often good sport, for the flies are benumbed with the cold, and cannot clear the water, which is their natural propensity to do as soon as they are hatched, and the fishes avail themselves of it. The blue drake is darkest when first hatched, and soon casts her skin, when she is altogether of a lighter shade and smarter fly—she also casts it and becomes the orange drake.

9TH.—ORANGE DRAKE.[6]—Dimensions about the same as

(6) This fly is the imago of the "Blue Dun," and generally known to the craft as the "Red Spinner," but being of the same shape as its pseudo-imago, the author classes it among the drakes. After a slight shower, the fish frequently rise with great eagerness at this fly, the evening being the best time to employ the imitation. Hardly any of the writers on fly fishing agree with respect to the wings, which are so glassy and transparent as to render their successful imitation a matter of con-

the blue drake, but more smart and slim in its appearance, and altogether of an orange color; tinged dusk on the top of the head, shoulders, and down the back; wings, clear and sparkling, with orange reflections.

Body, orange or yellow silk, with orange or golden tinged cock's hackle, for wings and legs.

10TH.—GOLDEN LEGG'D BEETLE.[7]—Full length, about a quarter; outsides all black and shiny; legs, a barley sugar color and transparency, which, in some, sparkle in the sun with brilliant glistenings of pale gold; the under wings are soft, fine, and transparent, tinged with the color of the legs. They are bred in the water, and come out the beginning of this month, and take wing on fine days through the season. They may be found under loose stones by the water sides.

Wings, from the gilded feather in the magpie's tail; body, a strand or two of the same; legged with a few fibres of honey or gold colored mohair.

11TH.—TORTOISE SHELL BEETLE.—Full length, about a quarter; top wings, brown, with four marks or spots of a lighter shade, and, when looked through to the light resemble the lights and darks of tortoise shell; body, dark brown; thighs, an amber or dull ale colored transparency, darkening to the feet. They are bred in the water, and may be found with the preceding beetle to the end of the season, but

siderable difficulty; the dressing given above by the author certainly comes nearer the mark than the feathers of mallard, inside of jay's wing, brown owl, etc., recommended by other writers, but I do not agree with his views respecting the body of the fly, which should be made very thin and slender, with ruddy brown silk, ribbed with fine gold wire; the spinners vary in colour and size quite as much as the duns, consequently a good supply of the various shades should always be at hand in case of emergency.

(7) These two, the "Golden-legged Beetle," and the "Tortoise Shell Beetle," are probably analogous with the "Peacock Fly" of Ronalds, and the "Little Chap" mentioned by Mr. Aldam, also the fancy Derbyshire fly known as the "Bumble," all of which are first-rate flies for grayling during the autumn months.

are not so numerous—query, are they male and female?

Wings, slips from a rankly freckled feather from the woodcock, moorcock, or snipe; body, orange silk or magpie's gilded harl, with a few fibres of amber mohair, or squirrel's fur at the breast, in imitation of the legs.

12TH.—HERON SPINNER.[8]—Full length, about one-eighth and one-sixteenth; length, about the same; wings, one-eighth; when they come out of the water their colors reflect the ashy blue shades of the heron, which, with their shape, brings that bird to mind; the wings are very fine and clear, they slant down the sides, similar to the duns, but they are rounded on the top edges, and, when looked down upon, appear of a fine rich blue color; thighs, a pale, dim yellow transparency, darkening to the feet; their shoulders are round; body small, and legs long; with a small brush at the nose. As the season advances they become yellower; they come out of the water in great numbers this month and next, and may be found under stones close by its side, and on spider webs. They are good for old smelt.

Dressed very fine, with small, pale yellow silk; wings, from the blue feather of a kingfisher, or blue titmouse; legs, pale yellow mohair.

13TH.—ROYAL CHARLIE.[9]—Full length, about half an inch; length, a quarter to a quarter and one-sixteenth; wings, three-eighths, which, when closed, are of a light ashy ground, broken and crossed into checker work, with dark veins, the under sides glossy, dark and woody; when held to the light, the ground is clear; the dark veins of the top ones are back shaded with darker, and there are faint cloudy patches of the same hue; shoulders, head, and body,

(8) Too diminutive to be of any practical use to the flyfisher.

(9) Not mentioned by any other authority, but as stated above is a good killer on small moorland streams. I prefer it myself dressed hacklewise, with feather from a partridge and crimson silk, and in this form it is, I believe, held in high estimation by flyfishers on the river Eden during the early spring months.

dark brown, and shiny, which in the females become more or less orange; thighs and legs, a tortoise shell mixture of light orange and dark brown; the dark at the joints. Hatches in good numbers this month, and is an excellent day fly into May.

Head, shoulders, and body, orange silk, more or less waxed; wings, a partridge grey feather from the side of the breast, that is tinged brown; legged with a freckled hackle from a red or yellow-dun hen. The following artificial fly, called the Royal Charlie, and which named the above, has been proved a good fly in the Laver, where the Royal Charlie is numerous, and perhaps represents them. Crimson silk, head, shoulders, and body, with a small piece of macaw's scarlet feather at the last joint; black hackle for legs, and wings from the mottled tail feather of a partridge

14TH.—Cow Dung[10] (or lion fly).—Full length, from three-eighths to half an inch; length, near three-eighths; wings, a quarter to three-eighths, which are thin and transparent, of a red brown to an orange tinge, towards the shoulders; the top of the head and shoulders reflect shades of ash brown and orange, with black bristle-like hairs on the shoulders; body and thighs appear dusky, in a covering of fine short hair of an orange or gold color; breast and sides of shoulders hairy, and of the same hue; the cheeks of some look as if gilded; eyes red brown; legs a dim orange transparency, set with a few small black hairs.

Orange silk with gold colored mohair and squirrel's fur, mixed, for body; wings, from the landrail; yellow, or ambry hen hackle, for legs.

The cowdung flies are bred on land, and are exceedingly

(10) This fly is of little service to the angler, excepting on very windy days, and even under those circumstances it is no particular favourite of mine, never having done much execution with it; it is however named by most writers on angling, and the dressings given by them vary but little from that of the author's.

numerous, in the fields among the grass, to the end of the season. They are a savage fly, preying upon others; and from their strong shoulders, black bristly mane, and tawny hide, might be called the lion fly. They fly much about, and are often blown, or fall casually, on the waters, when their rich colors, reflections, and size, are natural and attractive to fish. They are most conspicuous this month and next, and from September to the end.

15TH.—THE BROWN DRAKE[11] (March brown).—Length, near or about half an inch; wings, half an inch to five-eighths, which are of a dim light brown ground, broken with strong dark lines from the shoulders, crossed with fine ones, and cloudy patches a shade or two darker run across; top of head, shoulders, and down the back, a light ashy brown, touched with darker, upon an amber bottom, showing a line of lighter along each side, and around the lower edge of each joint; a slanting dark line crosses each joint along the sides; breast and belly, a light shade of brown of an ambry tinge; legs and whisks, a light ambry brown dim transparency.

Wings, a feather from under the wing of the hen pheasant; body, yellow silk, with a few fibres of light fur from a hare's ear, wrought in at the breast.

The brown drake commences hatching the latter end of

(11) In speaking about the "March Brown," it is always well to first ascertain which fly is really meant, the "Brown Drake," as it is styled by the author, or pattern No. 6 in this work, which, as I have previously stated in my notes on that fly, is also called the "March Brown" in some districts; Mr. Aldam distinguishes them by calling the "Red Brown" the *local* "March Brown," and the "Brown Drake" the "March Brown of Great Britain;" Jackson names it the "Great Brown," and some Yorkshire anglers the "Dun Drake," while in Wales it is called the "Cob Fly;" this fly is a great favourite with the fish when it is on the water, in fact, I have seen fish killed with it until the end of June; the female is a lighter fly, of a more olive tinge than the male, and during its season I have generally found it answer well to use one of each pattern at the same time. The following is Mr. Ronalds' pattern for the female fly, which he has observed come upon the water a few days later than the males. Body, pale olive green wool, ribbed with fine gold twist; legs, a honey dun hackle, that is less bright than a golden dun; wings, upright from the quill feather out of the middle of a hen pheasant's wing.

this month, if the weather be very favorable. She is a favorite leader with the craft through the spring; next in size and importance to the head of her class, the fairy queen or green drake, to whom she resigns her supremacy; she casts the brown badge and becomes the brilliant amber drake, or the largest of the red drakes, erroneously called spinners.

16TH.—AMBER DRAKE.[12]—Size of the brown drake; wings clear and sparkling, with red and amber tinges and reflections; body, a rich orange or amber color; the dark marks and slanting dark lines on the sides, distinct and clear, of a dark red brown color; legs and whisks a dim amber transparency; eyes dark. Is the most splendid in colors of any of the drakes, and may sometimes be seen almost as large as the grey drake.

Body, bright orange or yellow silk, with eight or nine open rounds of dark red brown wound upon it; winged and legged with a red or amber cock's hackle, with a few fibres of amber mohair wrought in at the breast.

17TH.—LIGHT BROWN.—Full length, near or about five-eighths, or about the same as the dark brown, which the craft distinguish by "inside and outside of woodcock;" top of head and shoulders, dark and shiny; body and breast darkest brown, which becomes more orange; thighs and legs a dull ale transparency, dark at the joints; the closed wings appear of a light brown ground, broken with veins; and four fleecy stripes across, of a darker shade. When looked through are of a light bloaish brown dim transparency. Commences hatching this month and continues into summer.

(12) "Great Red Spinner" of Ronalds and Francis; "Great Spinner" of Jackson; this imago of the "Brown Drake" in common with that of the "Blue and Yellow Duns," is an excellent evening fly during its season especially after slight showers. This fly is also known as the "Light Mackerel" on some rivers.

Legged and winged with a feather from outside of woodcock's wing, and orange silk for body; and a few fibres of mohair or squirrel's fur for legs.

18TH.—BLACK FLY (or midge).—Full length, about one-eighth; shape of the house fly, but rather darker, and folds the wings one over the other; are very numerous through the season, among the grass, &c., being bred on land, and may often come on the water; but their diminutive size renders them of little use to the flyfisher. Material for imitation similar to those of the house fly, but much smaller in size.

NOTE FOR MARCH.—The sudden changes of this fitful month sometimes conduce to the success of the hardy flyfisher, that bides the pelting of the pitiless storm—the aquatic flies hatch in fine mornings in increasing numbers, but if cold gusty storms come on they are benumbed and readily nipped up by hungry grayling or the half-fed trout; they have tasted of top food, and a natural fly on the water rarely escapes them. All the browns mentioned, and the blue drake, are good for this month, every day the weather will allow them to hatch or come upon the waters. The needle dark brown and blue dun are the hardiest, and will bear cold weather the best. The red browns become most numerous, and with the dark browns, are in full force, hatching and breeding. The light brown and Royal Charlie are favorite trout flies, and all new comers soon become known to the fish, and their favorites should be met on their first appearance, which shall be noted each month, as near as observation warrants; for the fish will naturally taste the various flies that offer themselves, and feed on those they like best. These flies, which are all aquatic except the cow dung, form nearly all the top food of the fish at this part of the season; for the land flies and insects have scarce come into being, or are so numerous as to come upon the waters. They may be fished with the black, silver, and golden hackle, during the middle hours of the day.

APRIL.

Sol wins the ascendency, and blunts the sharp teeth of rebellious winds—withered winter vanishes in flowery green and woodland music—the welcome swallow halts on her native chimney, while thick around descend the vital sparks. Stick to the streams fisherman, while spring invigorates the game. Trout squats by sharp streams and in ambush checks the rapids, hungry and bold he dashes unerring at the passing fly. Grayling woo in the gravelly draws—disturb or take them not. The royal samlet deserts the narrow limits of his native home, and joins in shoals to seek dominion in encircling seas. The waters pour their winged progeny into air. Among the rest, fishermen! take heed! the imperial Empress comes.

19th.—Mottled Brown.—Full length, about half an inch; length, better than a quarter; wings, near three-eighths, which when folded, appear of a red brown ground veined and spotted, or mottled with darker, like the feathers in a partridge's tail; shoulders and body darkish brown; legs, a tortoise shell mixture, dark at the joints; is hatching this month and continues through the next.

Body, shoulders, and head, orange silk; wings and legs a partridge's tail feather, red, spotted with darker.

20th.—House Fly.[13]—Full length near three-eighths; length, a quarter; wings, a quarter, which are clear and transparent, of a brown tinge; eyes large and brown, set in a rim of silver; shoulders, a mixture of dark stone and

(13) Jackson does not give the imitation of this fly until October, and Mr. Francis mentions the fact that the fish take them more readily in the autumn, as they then become weak and blind, and fall upon the water; both this and the following fly are, however, most effective when used in the natural state, large dishes of fish being sometimes caught in bright summer weather by dibbing with it on the finest drawn gut behind bushes, etc., on the deeps of trout rivers; some anglers are great adepts at this style of fishing, but I must confess that it is a branch of the art for which I care little, and rarely adopt, unless compelled by force of circumstances.

brown; body, stone color, which, with the shoulders are hairy, and reflect in the sun tints of various colors—blue, green, etc. Thighs and feet dark brown; legs, a dim ale transparency set with small black hairs. This is a description of a fine one taken in a wood by the Ure side; they vary in their sizes and colors. They are bred on land, and are out in great numbers every day from morning till night throughout the season, and are well taken by the fish whenever they come upon the waters.

Hackled with a blackbird's feather for wings and legs; body, brimstone colored silk, with a small portion of fine black hair or fur, worked in.

21ST.—BLUE BOTTLE[14] (or flesh fly).—Full length, half an inch or better; length, three-eighths; wings, three-eighths, which are clear and glassy, of a darkish blue tinge, a point of light stone or bees' wax color at the setting on of the wings; head, shoulders, and body, a rich dark glossy blue, with rich reflections, and shifting shades of light blue, etc., which are thinly set with dark blue or black hairs. Eyes, brown; nose, cheeks, and chin, a light bees' wax hue, with deep reflections; legs and breast, blue black, and hairy. During the season they are found of various shades, some, top of shoulders and the back, checkered with squares of dim stone, mingled with blue and bright, with moving shades and rich reflections. They are land flies, breeding daily throughout the season, and are out from morning till night. They are not much used artificially; their larvæ, the maggot, is a well known natural bait.

They may be imitated with threads of light and dark blue shining silk or Alpaca wool, wound on the arming, for

(14) The best imitation of this fly that ever I saw was sent to me some years ago by the late Mr. James Ogden, of Cheltenham: the body was formed of some kind of blue tinfoil, warped with black harl and purple silk, this, combined with wings from a jay's feather, made up an exact imitation of the fly, and I caught some good dishes of grayling with it both on the Yore and Wharfe.

body, shoulders, and head ; fastened at the head with orange or yellow silk ; hackled with a cock pheasant's purple neck feather, for wings and legs.

The fly from the clapbait is exactly of the same shape as the blue bottle, but larger, and near the same color, except the wings, which are orange at the shoulders, and the cheeks brilliantly gilded.

22ND.—GRANNAM[15] (or greentail).—Full length, about half an inch ; length, a quarter and one-sixteenth, which appears longer when the female has her cluster of green eggs about the end. Wings, three-eighths and one sixteenth ; top ones downy, of a light rusty brown tinge and transparency, with faint freckles of darker shade. Head, shoulders, body, legs, and feelers, coppery brown, with a blue tinge on the back and belly ; eyes, dark. Commences hatching last month and continues into May. She is one of the cod bait or light colored tribe of duns, and shews herself more in daylight than some others of her class ; hatching in the forenoons, and sporting in small groups over the waters in the afternoon and towards evening. Several species of the duns, the dotterell, black dun, etc., come out and sport over the waters from five to near sunset, when other species make their appearance.

Winged with slips from a feather out of a partridge or hen pheasant's wing ; body, coppery silk, tinged with water-rat's blue fur ; with a few fibres of mohair to imitate the legs ; or winged and legged with a landrail, or slightly freckled feather from a light red brown hen.

(15) This fly appears in April, but has been noticed by Mr. Francis on the water as late as July, and Mr. Ronalds states that he has taken them from the stomach of a trout even in August. I once myself saw a dish of ten fine trout taken from the river Wharfe by this fly in July, but from personal experience I cannot say very much in favour of it, having only caught a few odd fish now and then with its imitation. It is not met with on every stream, and even on the rivers where it is found it appears in a very erratic manner—some seasons the water being covered with them for a week or ten days, and perhaps the next year only two or three flies are to be seen. Jackson remarks that the fish take it as early as six o'clock, a.m.

23RD.—THE SPINNER.—Length, half an inch or better, of which the body is three-eighths; wings, five-eighths, clear and tinged brown, with a scroll of dark and light near the ends; top of shoulders and body brown; a round spot of lighter shade on the top of each joint, running down the back, which is flanked on each side by one of darker. Sides of shoulders and breast mingled light and dark brown, lead, ash, and azure; thighs, a dim brown transparency, darkening down the legs, which are very long. There is a smaller species nearly the same colors; numerous on fogs and grass in September and October.

Body, light brown or fawn colored silk, or even woollen thread, tinged with a mixture of ash, blue, and azure fur at the shoulders, on a pale yellow bottom. Wings from a feather out of a partridge or hen pheasant's wing; legs, a black brown cock's hackle.

The spinners are often numerous on the banks of the streams at this part of the season; in the warm months they are larger in size and more brilliant in colors; when their length and wings is five-eighths or better; and the hind legs of some two inches; top of shoulders and body a brown ash or reflective fawn color, in some lighter at the joints, others uniform; the sides of shoulders are a rich light blue and azure, touched with ash, upon a pale yellow bottom—which shew, with the thighs, a rich dim transparency, of a light amber shade, darkening down the legs. The wings a fine rufous brown tinge and transparency, with dark veins. In autumn they are exceedingly numerous, and appear to breed on land and in the water, for they are very often rank by the water sides and also in grass fields, particularly in low swampy parts. They are good natural baits in summer and autumn.

24TH.—THE STONE FLY.[16]—The full length of a fine

(16) The imitation of this, the largest of aquatic insects, is of little practical use to the angler, excepting in rough water on a windy day, but I do not know finer

female is near an inch and a quarter; length near or about seven-eighths; feelers and whisks, three-eighths; wings, one inch; the hind legs, which are the longest, are fully five-eighths; the diameter across the belly is near one-eighth and one-sixteenth, and full that at the shoulders, where the wings are set on. The foundation color is orange or yellow, darkened on the upper and prominent parts with brown; the forehead, top and sides of shoulders, a dark tortoise-shell mixture of orange and brown; body, yellow; each joint uniformly marked at the top and sides with brown; throat, breast, and belly, dull yellow, with faint touches of brown; legs, feelers, and whisks, a lightish brown and dim transparency. Top wings, when closed, shew veiny, of a brown grizzly hue and horny shine; when looked through to the light, are a dim transparency of a light brown tinge, shewing the dark veins; eyes, dark.

She is imitated with brown bear's hair and yellow camlet. Body, yellow camlet, with eight or nine open rounds of dark brown floss silk, or camlet thread, warped over it; head and shoulders yellow camlet, darkened on the upper parts, etc., with the brown bear's hair; wings selected from the feather of a wild drake, partridge, or hen pheasant; legged with hair or a stiff hen hackle.

sport than fishing with it in its natural state; the very finest tackle must be employed; I prefer myself two small fly hooks tied a little above one another, at the end of about three yards of fine drawn gut, but some anglers employ a larger hook, having a stiff bristle tied in with it, and projecting at the top to keep the fly in its place; the angler must wade carefully up stream, casting his fly with precision behind stones or any other obstruction in the water, letting it float naturally round eddies so caused, or down the edge of rough streams, in fact wherever there is the chance of a trout being on the watch; in some parts of Yorkshire it is called the "May Fly," causing no little confusion, as in other districts that title is awarded to the "Green Drake," but as the latter is seldom on the water until June, I consider it is more appropriate when applied to the "Stone Fly." The creeper or larva of this insect appears in April, and is equally as deadly a bait as the fly itself, especially if the water be low and clear; the same tackle as is used for the fly will do for creeper fishing, but in rough streams a single split shot should be added, as the fish take this bait below the surface; the angler must wade up stream, and cast his line very carefully, otherwise the creepers, being exceedingly tender, his bait will want renewing at almost every cast, and he will find it to his advantage not to neglect the thin open water at the head and edges of the streams.

The stone fly brood commence hatching the beginning of May, and continue for three or four weeks—the time when they may be got—and by the middle of July the generation is swept off for the year. Some few, which are generally rather less in size, hatch this month in advance of the main body—which generally appear in these waters about the eighth of May; and the latest that have been seen were on the fourteenth July—when the flyfisher may wish her good bye. She is the head of her own class, and the Imperial Empress of all trout flies; her size and nutritious qualities, whereof the trout feeds to satiety, and it is said perfects his condition, has no equal. Her name is famous among anglers, but few arrive to the extent of her merits. She comes out of the water during the day, and creeps to concealment under stones by its side—hence the origin of her name, and where she may be found. Her grizzly brown appearance is dull, and she is unseemly to the sight; Nature's brilliant touches are not there; and, as if conscious of her plainness, she shuns the light, and is seldom seen by day; after sunset she comes out, for her sports and enjoyments are chiefly in the dusk and twilight of night and early morn, the whole family are then in motion, flying about, running among the stones, and paddling upon the waters. It is then she feeds the trout, and gives the last finish of perfection to that beautiful fish. Her unpolished colors are the same as his; she feeds him from her infancy: the creeper at the bottom and the fly at the top of the water are both his favorite food, and she unconsciously meets him in the height of her pleasures and greatest numbers, at the very time and place of his murderous prowl. It might seem that our great Creator, amidst his animated masses, threw in the sequestered devoted stone fly a peck for the trout, as the burnisher of his beauties and his chief nourisher in life's feast.

The stone fly is in general fished natural, for which her-

self, like all others, is the truest teacher. Unlike the green drake that rarely uses her legs on the water, but moves with the current, the stone fly seems at home on its surface, she drops and runs upon it with the same ease and freedom she does on the ground—trotting and making her way across or down the streams, and lands where she lists, perfectly dry: it is thus she presents herself to the trout—paddling in quick motion, lively and dry, in various directions on the water; and the angler must present her to him in the same way as near as he is able, with a tough springy rod and a line about the same length, two-thirds of it fine strong gut. Move, unseen, with easy motion up the stream, and dab the fly with precision on the eddies behind stones, or other places of succour where the trout takes his station; or let it glide free and natural down on the current over his likely haunts; never drag it against the stream (unnatural for any fly), or suffer it to drown, but succour and recover it by easy lifts and gentle jerks, to keep it on the water alive and dry, for a dead fly hanging at the hook like a piece of wet moss will not be taken on the top, and a good artificial will maintain its appearance better in the water. No time need be lost, for the stroke of the trout is often quicker than the falling of the fly: if he refuse at first sight, he rarely stands bantering, try about, hit the mark, and preserve the fly—be handy with the net, and days may be seen for every fly a trout. Fish early and late, as darkness will allow, and on drizzly days, which sometimes brings the flies out. At times of flood, in May and June, trout are very voracious, and screened by the thickness of the water, cry havoc among minnows, bullheads, etc., but when the flood has subsided and the waters are brown, the stone fly comes in with great force. She is a true trier of skill, and probably the best test of the general merits of the flyfisher. Each rustic craftsman along the banks of the winding streams, where the true art and science of flyfish-

ing is best known and practised, greet with glee the presence of the stone fly—she fills his pannier with the finest trout —replenishes his pocket, his pipe, and his pot—then in the village forum the happy angler sings and recounts achievements glorious—

"O'er a' the ills of life victorious."

Walbran, of Mickley, says he killed a trout about one and three quarters pound weight, that had a hundred stone flies in its stomach. The author killed one with the minnow soon after sunset, in brown water, in the mill race above Skellbank, which weighed near two pounds, and had in its stomach four large bullheads and a great old mouse, which all seemed as if just taken, but did not satisfy the trout, for he ran twice at the minnow which cut short his evening forage.

25TH.—THE MALE STONE FLY is less in size and rather darker in color; shews more gild in the sun, and is extraordinarily quick on the legs, but short in the wings, which do not reach the end of his body—probably to confine him to his native element. The craft unanimously prefer the female.

Materials for his imitation may be selected from those for the female.

26TH.—BEE OR BANK FLY.[17]—Full length, half an inch or more; length, from three-eighths to half an inch; has four narrow wings, a quarter and one-sixteenth, which fold flat over the back, clear and tinged brown like those of the honey bee, which the fly resembles. Head, shoulders, belly, and legs hairy, of a red brown or hoary grey color; back, dark brown and shiny, with a ring of lighter on the

(17) Being in doubt concerning the identity of this fly, I asked Mr. Francis for his opinion, which is that it is intended for the "Great Dark Drone" of Ronalds. I should not be inclined to think its imitation would prove of much service to the flyfisher unless employed for chub fishing.

edge of each joint. They breed in soil banks by the water sides; there are great numbers in the bank opposite Fisher-green, which is full of their small holes. They come home loaded, like bees, on the body and thighs, with what they collect from flowers, which gives them a rich orange hue. They continue nearly through the season, and are out from morning till night.

Body, brown silk, dubbed and tinged with yellow fleshy grizzle and hoary grey fine hair, or fur from the fox-cub, squirrel, etc.; blackbird's feather for wings; and red brown mohair or hen hackle for legs.

27TH.—IRON BLUE DRAKE.[18]—Length, a quarter; wings, a quarter or better, of a dark blue bloa dim transparency. Legs, whisks, and middle joints of the body are of a light grey azure transparency; head, shoulders, and end joints, a dark brown. She hatches through the day, and continues in succession nearly through the season. She is a hardy little fly, a great favorite, and in good numbers on the waters daily. She casts her skin and becomes the pearl drake.

Dark brown silk for the head, shoulders, and two or three last joints of the body, and light blue grey for the middle joints; hackled with a water-rail or water-hen's small leady breast feather, with a few fibres of light blue-grey fur from the fox-cub, to imitate the legs.

28TH.—PEARL DRAKE.[19]—Size same as the iron blue, but

(18) This fly is indispensable to the angler, as when it is on the water the fish will rarely look at any other; Jackson styles it the "Pigeon Blue Bloa," but most other authorities are unanimous in naming it the "Little Iron Blue," or "Iron Blue Drake." Mr. Francis gives a most detailed and interesting account of it, and his directions for its imitation are perhaps the best to be found. David Foster, the late naturalist angler of Ashbourne-on-the-Dove, mentions the fact that on one occasion he witnessed such a rise of this fly that in the distance it resembled a cloud of smoke.

(19) This is the imago of the preceding fly, and would be equally valuable to the flyfisher if only a good imitation could be dressed, but the wings are so glassy and transparent as to render that by no means an easy task; the author's dressing for

smarter, and a little more slim ; wings, sparkling and glassy, with a light pearly tinge, or nearly colourless transparency. Eyes, head, shoulders, and the end joints of the body, a fine dark brown ; legs, whisks, and middle joints, a light pearl transparency. They are out and assemble in groups every day and evening to the end of autumn.

Fine coffee-brown silk for the brown parts, and white for the pearl parts of the body ; winged and legged with a glassy silvery cock's hackle.

29TH.—SPIRAL BROWN DRAKE (or Checkwing).[20]—Length three-eighths or better ; wings the same, of a light brown ground, with strong longitudinal dark lines crossed into squares, with small ones, which have named them. When seen through a glass the lines are back shaded with darker, like the Royal Charlie. Body, a darkish ashy brown, with a ring of lighter on each joint, and a light line runs along each side ; whisks and legs a bloa-brown dim transparency, eyes, some goggling and some cased ; as the season advances they shew distinctly the slanting dark lines along the sides, similar to the brown drake.

Body, orange or yellow silk ; hackled, for wings and legs, with a freckled-brown feather from the back or shoulder of a partridge, with a few fibres of hare's ear wrought in at the breast.

it comes as near the mark as it is possible, but Mr. Aldam, who speaks very highly of this fly, having had excellent sport with it on the Chatsworth waters in October, 1852, states that a good material with which to form the body is a horse hair of transparent watery whiteness ; I have never found the imitation work well myself, even when the fish have been feeding all over the river at the natural fly ; the above-named authority, together with Mr. Francis and Ronalds, name this fly the "Jenny Spinner," while Jackson styles it the "Little White Spinner."

(20) Although Mr. Ronalds treats this as a separate fly, under the name of the "Turkey Brown," and Jackson as the "May Brown," I am strongly of opinion that it is only a lighter shade and variety of the "March Brown ;" and thus the system introduced by Mr. Francis, and also advocated by the late David Foster, of treating the long lists of "Browns," "Bloas," "Duns," and "Spinners," issued by other writers, as only different shades of one fly is gradually gaining ground, and very rightly so, as it greatly simplifies the art of flyfishing, and does not confuse the mind of the beginner by an almost endless list of names.

The checkwing varies from this description, as will be seen afterwards, for she continues into October; in the warm months she nearly equals in size the March brown, and is as fine and bulky a fly. The principal distinction is the clouded wing of the March brown, which the pheasant's feather has long represented, and the partridge brown for the trellised wings of the checkwing. From time out of mind they have been great favorites with the craft—yclept "hare's ear and yellow."

30TH.—RED DRAKE (or great red spinner).[21]—Size of checkwing but smarter; long fore legs, long whisks; wings glassy and transparent, crossed into squares, sparkling with red reflections; body, a red or ambry dim transparency, tinged darker on the upper parts and along the sides. Legs and whisks a red dim transparency; eyes round and goggling or cased. Are out in groups in the evenings.

Red cock's hackle with orange silk.

31ST.—BLACK SPINNER (or gnat).—Full length, short of a quarter; length, one-eighth to one-eighth and one-sixteenth; round thick shoulders; body tapering to a point, of a dark brown leady or black color. Some shew faint reflections in the sun. Wings transparent, of a slight brown or neutral tinge.

Black silk and starling's small feather. This little aquatic comes out of the water the beginning of this month, and increases daily to immense numbers; it is often the leading favorite of the fish, and as often the pest of the flyfisher. They are out all day, mustering exceedingly numerous in the evenings until dusk, and continue through summer.

(21) "Great Spinner" of Jackson, "Great Red Spinner" or "Light Mackerel" of Ronalds; this is the imago of the "March Brown," and is a fine, large, showy looking fly, but owing to the distance that it flies above the surface of the water does not often become food for the fish, at least I have never found the artificial kill nearly so well as the lesser spinner of the "Blue Dun," or the corresponding transformation of the "Yellow Dun."

They wing and wheel over the whole face of the water in dry and warm times, rousing the fish; when the best imitation cannot work. Like the small midge and gnat tribes, they may trifle away time, but do little for the pannier.

32ND.—BLOA BROWN.—Full length, near or about half an inch; length, three-eighths; wings, three-eighths, which, when folded, are of a light grizzly blue tinge, and when looked through are glassy and colorless, with small veins, and a dark patch or blot on the outer edge. Head, shoulders, and body, a brown orange tinge; legs, a brown amber dim transparency. Is about the substance of the early brown, and commences hatching early this month.

Snipe bloa feather from under the wing; yellow or orange silk, with a few fibres of ambry-brown mohair at the breast.

33RD.—LITTLE DARK DRAKE.—Length about a quarter; wings, a quarter or better, altogether of the hue of the water-hen's breast. When held up to the light the middle joints of the body shew lighter, like the iron blue, but the iron blues are a blue grey, and the little dark drake a dim red. Eyes dark and cockling. She commences hatching about the middle of this month, and continues through the summer; then she casts her skin and becomes the little red drake.

Winged and legged with a small feather from the water-hen or water-rail; body, orange silk, waxed.

34TH.—LITTLE RED DRAKE.—Length, a quarter; wings, a quarter or better, clear and transparent, with red tinges and reflections; shoulders, red; body, a red lemony dim transparency; eyes, red brown, large, and goggling. Long whisks, which stand square, and long fore-legs, of a red light-brown dim transparency. Muster in groups towards evening.

Pale orange or dim yellow silk, and red cock's-hackle feather.

35TH.—HAWTHORN FLY.[22]—Full length from three-eighths to half an inch; length nearly the same. Head, shoulders, body, and legs, jet black and shiny, thinly set with black short hair; wings fine, of a light grizzly transparency. They resemble the cow dung or lion fly, but are a little more slender, and, like him, is a savage warrior fly, devouring others. They are sheathed, body and limbs, in glossy black mail, haunting hawthorn trees and hedges. They are bred on land, making their appearance the latter end of this month, and are gone by the end of May.

Head, shoulders, and body, black silk, with black seal's fur or mohair twisted or wrought in; winged with a light neutral feather from the snipe or starling; with a black hen-hackle for legs.

36TH.—RED BROWN DRAKE.—Length, about three-eighths; wings rather more; in outline and clouded wing it resembles the brown drake, but is less in size, and its colors all darker; the wings resembling the mottled red feather in the partridge's tail. Body orange, with dark red brown marks on the upper parts; legs, a dim ale or amber. Hatches the latter end of this month, and casts her skin, when she becomes the dark amber drake.

Dressed with a mottled red feather out of the partridge tail, and orange silk, with a few fibres of orange or amber mohair at the breast.

(22) This fly is generally dressed as a palmer, as recommended by Ronalds, or dressed like a large black gnat, as suggested by Mr. Francis and Jackson. I have only had good sport with the imitation on one occasion, when on a gloomy day in August, 1868, while fishing in the Yore below Ripon, I killed eleven fine grayling; there was a full water, and the fish would look at no other fly. I should say that if fished natural, on a small hook, this fly would kill well on trout streams overhung by hawthorn bushes, but not having tried it I cannot speak from experience, but merely give the hint for what it may be worth.

37TH.—DARK AMBER DRAKE.—Length three-eighths; wings rather more, which are clear and glassy, with deep orange reflections; body, rich orange bottom, marked distinct, with a good portion of rich dark brown on each joint; legs, amber.

Deep orange hackle for wings and legs; and orange or yellow silk for body, more or less waxed.

38TH.—SANDED DUN.[23]—Full length, half an inch or more; length, three-eighths; wings, three-eighths and one-sixteenth, the top ones, when closed, appear of a uniform palish sandy-red brown. The dark eyes form the only contrast, but on looking closely the wings are beautifully broken with faint freckles, and staddles of lighter on the top edges behind the shoulders, which are more conspicuous in some than in others. Body and legs a light red-brown dim transparency; belly, a bees'-wax dull yellow hue. They commence hatching this month, and may be seen in the day time until October; but the great muster of the duns is from five to seven in the afternoons, and dusk in the evenings. In the course of the season varieties, slightly differing, present themselves—the bodies and thighs of some have the purple blush, and shew clear the light side lines; others have more or less down, or are of lighter or darker shade, but when held to the light, are all from the light colored or codbait tribe of creepers.

Bright copper colored silk for body; feathers, for wings and legs, from the landrail, throstle, or a yellow bronze brown hen, or the brown owl, with or without tinge of water-rat.

(23) This fly must not be confounded with No. 5 in this work, which is called in some districts the "Sand Fly," the title which is adopted by all other writers for the "Sanded Dun." I have generally found it kill best in the evening towards the end of August or beginning of September, but am inclined to think that it is then taken as an imitation of the "Cinnamon Fly," which it much resembles, and which belongs to the same family, the "Phryganidæ;" for the Yore, the author's pattern answers very well, but curiously enough does not take at all well on the Wharfe, where a fly dressed hacklewise from a thrush's feather, with yellow silk for the body, does great execution among grayling during the autumn months.

39TH.—DARK DRAKE (dark watchet).[24]—Length, near or about three-eighths; whisks, three-eighths; wings, three-eighths, which are of a dark plum hue, crossed into squares with dark lines. Body, dark and rather shiny, of a dim transparency, like the dark rind of a plum upon the orange pulp; dim yellow patches like epaulettes, at the shoulders, and a dark spot on each joint along the sides. The fore-legs of some very long, and of a dark ale dim transparency; whisks the same; eyes dark and cockling. She commences hatching the latter part of this month, and afterwards becomes numerous, with variations, to near the end of the season. She is a celebrated fly, of the first order of aquatics —the "dark watchet" or "water-hen and orange" of the craft.

Orange silk, and water-hen or water-rail's breast feather, or from under the wing.

40TH.—DARK RED DRAKE.—Size of the dark drake. Wings, clear, with red sparklings; shoulders shew the yellow epaulettes; the dark parts almost black; back a reddish brown, dark at each joint, which shew most along the sides; belly, light brown, lightest at each joint; legs, a red brown ale transparency—the fore ones of some the longest; eyes, cockling or cased. Are out in the day-time and evenings.

Body, orange silk, and red cock's hackle for wings and legs.

41ST.—PLOVER DUN.—Full length, from three-eighths to half an inch; length, better than a quarter to three-eighths. Top wings downy, of a rusty brown ground, with light freckles on the upper edges, and gilded reflections in

(24) I can fully indorse the author's statement that the hackle fly known to the majority of Yorkshire anglers as "Waterhen and Orange," is a great killer throughout the whole of the year in cold dull weather, but believe that the reason may be found in the fact that it forms a good general imitation of the many shades of the "Iron Blue Dun," which may be found on the water from the time that the latter fly comes into season until the back end of the year.

the sun; under wings a uniform bloa tinge, and fringed. Body a leady hue; legs a white yellow. Is something like the early dun, but has been observed to hatch freely the latter end of this month and the beginning of May.

Hackled with a freckled bloa feather from the golden plover; for wings and legs, copper-colored silk, tinged with water-rat's blue fur.

42ND—FRECKLED DUN.[25]—Full length, better than half an inch to five-eighths; length, three-eighths or more; wings, better than half an inch, the top ones a dark red brown ground and transparency, with longitudinal dark veins; and beautifully freckled with marks and spots of a fawn or buff color. Light side lines, broadest next the shoulders; back, belly, thighs, and legs, a dark, reddish ash or lead color—the two last joints of the body darkest; eyes dark; the side lines light copper color.

This is a fine dun fly, the produce of the stickbait. They appear to hatch twice a year, commencing this month, and are plentiful in May and June, and again in September and October. After hatching they may be seen flying about in the day-time; their eggs are an amber color.

Winged and legged with a freckled feather from the moorcock; and orange silk or copper colored silk for body; winged with slips from the moorcock, and legged with moorcock's hackle; body, tinged with water-rat's blue fur.

43RD.—LIGHT DUN.[26]—Full length, better than half an inch to five-eighths; length, three-eighths or more; wings, better than half an inch, the top ones near the shade of the outer skin of a dried onion, with faint mottles and crossings a shade darker; body, thighs, and legs, a light bees'-

(25) The imitation of this fly, dressed as above, is an excellent killer on the Laver, a small brook near Ripon, which after joining the Skell flows into the Yore, a little distance below the city; locally this fly is known as "Moorcock and Spicey Silk."

(26) "Alder Fly" of other writers; Mr. Francis recommends it as a useful evening fly, and Mr. Ronalds remarks that, where plentiful, it is best fished natural.

wax hue and transparency; eyes, dark or black. Is altogether of a light dim ambry tinge and dim transparency.

This fly is the produce of the codbait. They commence hatching this month, and are plentiful in May and June, and again in autumn, but are out most in the dusk of evening. There are varieties of them, some darker freckles and smaller size. The artificial cases of some of the codbait tribe have small particles of vegetable substances mingled with those of stone, attached to them, which may impart a darker shade or freckle to the flies. The largest codbait creepers, when the case is covered with particles of stone only, produce the largest and lightest colored flies.

They are imitated with feathers from the landrail, brown owl, dotterell, brown hen, etc., with tawny, coppery colored silks, of lighter or darker shades.

NOTE FOR APRIL.—This genial and life-cheering month teems with sport for the flyfisher. Hungry trout and smelt in abundance, unscathed through winter and the streams ample, they forage and feed without fear or scruple. Any of the flies hitherto described that may be hatching or on the water, may be fished this month; the needle, dark, light, red, mottled, and bloa brown, with the Royal Charlie; the blue, brown, checkwing, iron blue, dark brown, and dark Drakes; the plover, freckled, and light duns, etc.; or in the language of the craft, who have handed down the feathers rather than the flies—the snipe bloa, inside and outside of woodcock, landrail, partridge tail, partridge grey, fox-cub, hen pheasant, partridge brown, water-hen and orange, plover bloa, moorcock, brown owl, etc. By those traditional materials the craft along the banks of the streams, both imitate and distinguish their flies, which are the finest of the aquatic tribes for small flyfishing, and are all in full force hatching and breeding daily. The weather affects them: a fine warm time sets them all afloat; cold,

coarse days, retard the tender tribes, which, as they can snatch portions of sunshine, when the wily trout, wide awake, sees all that passes and snaps his favorite victim. The gravel spinners are in good perfection, with the light, dark, and bloa brown, blue and brown drake, are good for the Ure—the duns, with the Royal Charlie, are good for the brooks, fished with or without the gold and black silver hackle.

The beginning of this month the old smelt begin to pack and draw downwards on their passage to salt water, when vast shoals make their halts on the tops and hovering parts of the streams of the Ure; which affords the Ripon angler as animated sport as he can wish. On meeting with a shoal on a fine forenoon, at low water, they will frequently race each cast at every fly on the stinting.[27] They take small red hackles and flies—the maggot and codbait are excellent auxiliaries. The first May flood takes the main body away, but many of the largest pass Ripon the latter end of this month.

MAY.

HAIL, smiling May! Queen of the year—robed in bright emerald—spangled with garlands of blossoms and flowers. She chants her joys in wide spread melody; and charms the light heart of the angler. Myriads of flies flock the air; the pregnant waters teem with life; and the tyrant trout, night and day, revels and fattens in carnage.

> The merry smelt, in tints of blue,
> Forsakes its home and bids adieu
> To its native streams—their first, best nurse;
> And to the ocean steer their course.

(27) As I have previously mentioned in the preface this practice is now put an end to by law; the word "stinting" is a local phrase signifying the fly cast.

From briny waves, their sires' domain,
Their native streams cannot detain—
Cheerily the striplings journey forth,
The heirs apparent and lords of both;
But grieve not, angler, to lose such store,
They'll never cease to bring thee more.

Drakes, in their swaddlings, tempt the trout by day,
And in the evenings in new dresses play.
Browns, beetles, spinners, during day come on—
Duns, moths, and th' Empress, after day is done.
Tribes of busy house flies, and nameless numbers 'bound
Rank in the woods—the grass—the air—the ground;
And numbers, unconscious, on treacherous waters light,
Which, struggling on its surface, tempt the fish to bite.
Through this gay month the Empress feeds the trout,
Joined by the fairy ere the month be out.
Of all the viands this rich season brings,
These, the trout's choice: whence his perfection springs;
Re-rich his gildings—his spotted sides expand—
But dire's their havoc, when in true angler's hand.

44TH.—YELLOW BROWN (or Yellow Sally).[28] Sizes vary. Full length, from three-eighths to half an inch or more; length, three-eighths more or less. Colors altogether yellow, of paler or deeper shade, except slight touches of brown on the head, shoulders, and body; eyes, dark or black.

They commence hatching with the month, and are very numerous to the end of July; are out on fine days from morning till night. They are a small smart fly; but, the razor grinder says "they taste bitter, and fish don't like them."

Hackled and legged with a small canary or yellow oriel's feather; body, yellow silk; with a few fibres of yellow mohair, or hair from the hare's ear, for legs.

45TH.—LITTLE FRECKLED DUN.—Full length, about three-eighths; length, rather less; wings, one quarter and

(28) "Yellow Sally," of Jackson, Ronalds, and Francis; the last-named authority states that a keeper once gave him the same reason for the fish's aversion to this fly as stated above by the author, this may be assumed to be correct, as I never met with a flyfisher yet who could say that the imitation of this member of the Perlidæ family was a good killer.

one-sixteenth, which, when closed, are of a dark brown ground, rankly spotted or freckled over with dull yellow or buff color; with gilded reflections in the sun; under wings a snipe bloa hue, fringed at the edges; top ones, when looked through, a blue-dun tinge; shoulders, body, feelers, thighs, and legs, coppery, with its blue tarnish of lighter or darker shade.

They are very like the freckled dun, but much smaller. Commence hatching with the month, and are out numerous most part of the day and in the evenings, through summer.

Wings, a rankly freckled feather from the snipe or judcock; tinged and legged with blue-dun fur.

46TH.—LEAST DUN.[29]—Full length, about one-eighth of an inch. Top wings downy, fringed and freckled like the goat-sucker, and glistening in the sun with coppery and gilded reflections; legs and body a dark cloudy dun, which grows more coppery as the season advances; under wings plain and fringed, of a uniform blue-bloa tinge.

They are the least of the dun tribes, and like others of its size, scarce worth the angler's notice. They commence hatching with the month, and continue increasing through most of the season. In September they are out most of the day, and are exceedingly numerous and brisk in the evenings; they run very quick, and their appearance is like a piece of dark down.

Body, small copper-colored silk; winged and legged with a neck feather from the golden plover.

47TH.—LIGHT DRAKE (Light Watchet).—Length, a quarter to near three-eighths; wings the same, of a fine light smoky-blue tinge and transparency; the veins and cross-

(29) When seen with the naked eye, this minute insect resembles a small speck of down on the surface of the water, but when looked at through a magnifying glass it is exactly represented by the figure in the page of illustrations, it may, however, be reckoned in the same category as the black midge, and denominated the "fisherman's curse."

ings slight. Head, shoulders, body, feelers, and legs, a dim yellow—some have three whisks, and a little darker, and some a shade darker generally.

From their varying in sizes and shade there may be two species of this beautiful little drake. They begin to hatch early this month, and may be seen nearly through the season. They cast their skins and become a light red drake.

Blue-dun feathers from a tern or sea swallow, for wings; body, yellow or straw colored silk; with a few fibres of amber fur, from the squirrel, at the breast.

48TH.—LIGHT RED DRAKE.—About the size of the light drake. Wings exceedingly slight and colorless, scarcely visible but for their slight red sparklings; body light red or amber, a shade darker on the back; legs and whisks a light dim red; eyes cockling. Are out in the daytime and evenings.

Fine small red cock's-hackle for wings and legs; amber silk for body.

49TH.—FŒTED DUN.[30]—Full length, better than half an inch; length, three-eighths; feelers, three-eighths; wings near half an inch, slightly downed, and of a darkish chesnut brown tinge and transparency, veined, and slightly freckled with sparklings of gold in the sun. Head, shoulders, back, and belly, a dark leady dun, with light coppery side lines; legs coppery, with its tarnish of blue—when taken has a singular smell.

They commence hatching the latter end of April, and continue through June, increasing to great numbers; and may be seen after sunset sporting by the water sides—flying among the willows, and running along the battlements of bridges.

Wings from the landrail or the light chesnut feather from

(30) "Fœtid Brown" of Francis, but as that authority remarks, does not bear any very high reputation among anglers.

the cock pheasant or the brown owl; body copper-colored silk, tinged with water-rat's blue fur; with a few fibres of light coppery mohair, or from the hare's ear or squirrel.

50TH.—DARK DUN.—Is in appearance altogether a dark dyed fly, almost black. Full length, five-eighths; wings better than half an inch, with a horny shine upon them, very veiny and much crossed; when looked through, shew the dark veins on a dim brown ground. Head, shoulders, legs, and body, dark brown.

Hatches the beginning of this month, and continues through June; after hatching flies about the water in good numbers, in the day-time.

Winged with a dark feather from the moorcock; brown silk for body; legged with a dark brown hen hackle.

51ST.—RED DUN.[31]—Full length, seven-eighths to an inch; length, half an inch to five-eighths; wings, three quarters to seven-eighths; the top ones above a quarter of an inch across the broadest part. Color altogether a light red ambry hue and dim transparency; the upper wings slightly broken with faint freckle, lines, and marks; under-wings plain, and fold up double; body fleshy, nearly cylindrical, and better than half the length, shewing the light side lines. They vary in shades and sizes—the spring flies, called musk flies from their musky smell, are of a lighter shade. In September they are more of a cinnamon hue; some shew more freckle and darker ground.

Wings, slips from the landrail, brown owl, or red dun hen; with coppery or amber silk for body, legged with a red dun hen hackle.

The red dun is the largest, and master fly, of the aquatic

(31) Another member of the numerous family of the Phyganidæ; possibly it is represented by the "Sedge Fly" of Francis, and the "Bank Fly" named in Mr. Aldam's work. My note on Fly 38 applies pretty much the same to this fly in its season.

dun tribes. She hatches during this month and again in autumn, when they are very numerous; but like the stone fly, she is seldom seen out in the daytime, but creeps into the cracks and crevices of soil banks, overhanging sods, etc., where she may be found by beating them; in the dusk of evening they come out and sport on the wing, probably through the night. She is a fine fleshy fly, but not much noticed by the craft.

52ND.—RED BEETLE.—Full length about half an inch; length the same; wings near three-eighths, of a red-brown tinge and amber transparency; legs, back, belly, and breast, dark or black; head, shoulders, sides, and thighs, red as a boiled lobster; eyes black; feet and feelers notched—feelers black at the ends; under wings veined and shaded with light and dark bloa. Comes early this month, and continues through the next.

Amber feather from the cock-pheasant's breast, for wings; body, orange or yellow silk, tinged with the mole or water-rat; with a few orange and black fibres of mohair at the breast; or hen hackle for legs.

53RD.—MEALY BROWN BEETLE.—Full length, better than half an inch; top wings a grey mealy brown, with very little transparency; under wings fine and clouded light and dark bloa; body, thighs, neck, chin, and feelers, a rich deep orange; centre of the belly and remaining parts, a dusky brown; eyes black. Are numerous among the grass, in the fields, by the Ure side, the middle of this month—numbers were seen in the pasture opposite "Skittergate."

Wings, from the grey brown feather from a mallard's wing; orange silk for body, tinged with water-rat; legged with a yellow brown hen hackle, with a yellow stripe down the middle.

54TH.—BROWN BEETLE.—Full length, about three-

eighths ; length, near the same ; top wings shiny, and of a darkish bronze or red brown, and dim amber transparency ; head, shoulders, body, and legs, black ; legs notched ; with a thin hair upon them and on the other parts ; under-wings tinged at the shoulders with amber, which shade into a leady bloa to the ends. They have two black feelers, with a tuft at the ends. Are very numerous, flying about in the day-time among the grass and on the hedges, from the middle of this month through June.

Wings from a red-brown hen, of ambry transparency ; body, black floss silk ; with a black hen hackle or black mohair for legs.

55TH.—SOLDIER BEETLE.[32]—Full length, various, three-eighths more or less. Color altogether red or amber, of lighter or darker shade, except the ends of the top wings, which are tipped with black, and of a dim amber transparency ; under-wings clear, and of a bloa brown transparency ; veined and clouded with lighter and darker shades ; eyes black. Are numerous among the grass the latter end of this month and into July.

Wings, a small amber feather with the black top from a cock-pheasant's breast ; body, amber or yellow floss silk ; with a few fibres of orange mohair or hen hackle for legs.

56TH.—OAK FLY (or downlooker).[33]— Length, better than half an inch ; wings near half an inch, of a light red brown ground and dim transparency ; darkest on the outer edges, and marked with patches and spots of lighter or darker

(32) "Fern Fly" of Ronalds and Francis, best imitated by a hackle fly dressed with a starling's dark feather, with a red cock's hackle wound over that, upon a body of orange floss silk, care should be taken in making this fly as small as possible, as the imitation is generally far too large.

(33) Generally known as the "Downlooker," from its habit of veering round head downwards whatever position it may be placed in. It is generally fished natural. Mr. Francis states that it is a great favourite on the Tweed, but I have never had any remarkable success with the imitation of it.

shade; head and shoulders a leady ashy color; body, a buff or bees'-wax hue and transparency; with a black spot on each joint along the back, and a small black line on each side, the three last joints darkest. Belly and thighs buff, darkening to the feet; breast dark; eyes brown. Is a land fly, found often on the buts of oak, ash, or other trees; generally with their heads downwards; and may often be seen in great numbers, flying about the hedges, from the middle of this month through June; and is a fine fleshy and rich colored fly—sometimes fished natural.

Dressed with various materials: wings from the woodcock or partridge, or winged and legged with a bittern hackle, or a yellow brown freckled hen; body, yellow or pale amber silk, with open rounds of deep red brown; shoulders, tinged with water-rat or squirrel's ashy fur.

57TH.—SPOTTED SPINNER.—Length half an inch; wings half an inch, of a light transparent ground, beautifully spotted with rich dark brown, and reddish towards the shoulders, which, with the body, are of an ashy leady hue, with green and various reflections; some are a fine light blue or azure, darkest on the edge of each joint; thighs, a red dim transparency, darkening to the feet. Appear the middle of this month, and continue through June.

58TH.—LITTLE SPOTTED SPINNER.—Full length three-eighths; length, a quarter and a sixteenth; wings the same color as the spotted spinner; clear, marked, and spotted with dark brown; body and shoulders darkish brown, with gilded reflections in the sun; legs a light brown dim transparency. Is out in the afternoon and evenings, from the middle of this month through June.

Rankly freckled feather, of neutral ground, may be selected from the wild mallard or teal, for the wings of these two flies, which are nearly similar in colors; body, dull

yellow or fawn colored silk, tinged with fine blue fur; red hackle for legs.

59TH.—BLACK DRAKE.—Length various, from one-eighth and one-sixteenth to three-eighths. Is the darkest of the drake tribes, altogether of a leady black hue. Commences hatching the middle of this month; and continues through June and July. They cast their skins and become the black red drake.

Hackled, for legs and wings, with a dark leady feather from the coot or water-hen; body, red or crimson silk.

60TH.—BLACK-RED DRAKE.—Near the same size as the black drake, but smarter. Head, top of shoulders, and body, a deep red or black brown, shewing orange or yellow at the joints, sides of shoulders, and setting on of the legs. Belly a dim amber; legs and whisks a dim ale transparency; eyes large and dark. The drawing was from one taken off a spider's web; the wings tied to the tail by the spider's threads.

Black red cock's hackle, or purple feather from the cock-pheasant's neck, for wings and legs; orange silk for body.

61ST.—GREY SPINNER (see spinner class).—Length, one inch more or less; wings the same, which are of a brown transparency, with patches of lighter shade, branched and crossed with dark veins. Shoulders, thighs, and breast, shades of ash, with dark marks; body a greenish ash, with dark touches along each side; when held to the light the middle joints shew a dim transparency; thighs, lighter, darkening down the legs. Is the largest of the spinner class, not numerous, but may be sometimes seen on the banks of the streams, from the beginning of this month into July. They are not imitated for small flyfishing—the hind legs of some measure three inches.

Slips for wings may be found in those of the woodcock or hen pheasant; with fawn or amber colored silk or alpaca woollen thread for body, etc., tinged with blue-dun fur, and legged with a black-red hackle.

62ND.—GREEN DRAKE.[34]—Length various, from three-quarters to seven-eighths may be the medium; wings nearly the same, which are of a light grass green ground, and dim transparency; veined and crossed with darker lines; two or three small blotches near the middle. Head and shoulders a light grass green hue, with touches of darker at the sides, and a dark blotch on the back and on the sides of

(34) At the time when this little work was first issued, no doubt the imitation of this, the most beautiful of aquatic insects, was of little use except under very exceptional circumstances, such as a coloured water, or dull windy day; but during the past twenty years experiments have been made and results arrived at, such as perhaps have not been effected in the case of any other fly. Such thoroughly practical men as Mr. Francis, the late James Ogden of Cheltenham, the late David Foster of Ashbourne, Hammond of Winchester, and W. J. Cummins of Bishop Auckland, not forgetting also Mr. Aldam, whose name is associated with one of the greatest curiosities of angling literature ever issued by the press, I repeat, such men as these have, by means of most patient research and practical experiments, succeeded in bringing the floating imitation of the "Green Drake" to such a state of perfection as to leave nothing to be desired. The bodies of these floating artificials are formed from various materials, but undoubtedly the best is that recommended by Mr. Francis, viz., straw or maize leaf; this must be wrapped round a very fine wire hook having a long shank, and ribbed with dark red-brown silk in spiral rings; the legs to be formed by a light speckled partridge feather dipped in onion dye, and the wings from two picked feathers from a teal or drake stained to suit the colour of the fly according to the district, these must be tied on back to back with a turn of peacock harl to form the head, and when properly dressed I feel confident that all anglers will agree with Mr. Francis that this cannot be excelled as an imitation of this beautiful fly. On the Derbyshire Wye, and upon some of the Hampshire streams, the "Green Drake" comes out in immense force if the season is favourable, and upon these occasions great sport is obtained among the trout; in Yorkshire, however, the "Stone Fly" has the precedence, excepting on one or two of the smaller streams as mentioned by the author. For an imitation to fish below the surface of the water, on a windy day for instance, the following is the pattern given by Mr. Francis: body formed of cork, with floss silk rings; tail, two whisks of brown mallard; legs, ginger or buff cochin hackle, and wings four hackle points from an Andalusian cock, these are grizzled and blue dun colour, and must be stained pale yellow, which, on the blue ground, gives the exact tinge; a long and a short hackle must be used to form each wing, and dressed well outwards to support the fly upon the water. The floating patterns should be kept in a small tin box, as if the wings are crushed between the leaves of a fly book, their floating properties are greatly impaired. In Yorkshire this fly hardly ever appears on the water until the first week in June.

each joint of the body, darkest on the three last joints; legs and whisks a dim light green tinge and transparency.

Hackled, for legs and wings, with a light colored mottled feather from the wild mallard, that is stained the ground color of the wings of the fly; body pale yellow-green smooth woollen thread, warped with eight or nine open rounds of darker shade.

The green drake is the superior fly of the drake tribes. All the genus are bred in the water—first an egg, then a creeper; the green drake remains in it above ten months. About the twenty-fourth of this month the forward creepers are matured; and from ten o'clock till four, on fine days, rise to the surface, when the struggling fly splits open the creeper case at the shoulders, and draws out its body, wings, whisks, and legs, as it floats on the current. When all the parts are at liberty, up springs on the wing the new-hatched fly, like a water nymph in fairy green, leaving the empty creeper skin on the water, an exhausted senseless slough. In this way, while the sun's beams (the accoucheur general) shine warm on the water, the unseen drake creeper is metamorphosed into a beautiful fly, which the eye catches springing up from various parts of the water, when we wonder from what or whence they come; but on looking close, the empty creeper skins will be seen floating in the places. Each succeeding day, for three or four weeks, continues to hatch them, until the whole family are brought into this breathing world. Her first flight is heavy, but shortened by the first tree, grass, or bush she can light upon. She springs from the bosom of her cradle and her nurse, surrounded by dangers; the reckless swallow often traps her in her first flight. She floats on the current majestic, the little "lady o' the lake," often on the brink of eternity—for, beneath, her deadliest enemies lie watching in her track; and in her short sail—with scarce time to breathe her new element—she is waylaid and gulped by the reckless trout.

Escaped these dangers, the green drake reposes under the leaves of trees and plants, in her green garb, which is the covering nature has bstowed upon her to protect her tender frame on its first encounter with the air and its changes. She soon grows strong and splits open her green covering, at the shoulders, in the same way as she did the creeper case, and casts it off, and probably shortly after a second, which clears away the green, and she becomes the grey drake.

The green drake is fished both natural and artificial; and at the time she is hatching is as peerless for trout, in the sunshine, as the stone fly is in the shade. The large trout feed deliberately on them both; they are cotemporary and rule by turns the empire of the stream. The glories of the stone fly are chiefly in the dusk of night and early morn, when she hath no compeer. The green drake holds her court in the full blaze of day, in undisputed majesty queen of the streams, which, in clear water, renders her less successful to the angler, for the quick eye of the trout catches everything that flits within its vision—the form of the fisherman—the wave of his rod—or the appendages to the falling fly, will rouse his fears and scare him from his food; but on sunny days and dark waters (when the green drakes are hatching) every trout is on the watch—hovering in the current like a kite in the air—wheeling from side to side to snap the passing prey; and so intent upon it is he, that the imperial Empress may trot over their heads unnoticed. It is then the natural fly fills the craftsman's pannier, and the trout she kills are in their full prime and splendour. The green drake is plentiful in all the streams of Ripon—the mill races and dams, which in summer are well stocked with trout, abound with them—particularly above Bishopton mill, where the trout are the finest in the neighbourhood, when feeding on the green drake. She is tackled and fished natural, similar to the stone fly, sometimes two on the hook,

the heads contrary way; thrown lightly on the water and left to the motion of the current. On fine calm hatching days artificials have little or no chance, but may succeed on breezy days and stirring waters.

On a sunny afternoon early in June, I was sitting by the side of the millrace just below Bishopton mill, enjoying a light luncheon. To please my children, who had brought it, I told them to catch me one of those flies, and I would catch them a trout—for the green drakes were hatching freely, and alighting on the grass around us. My rod was at hand, I put on a fly and dropped it on the dark water, amidst the silvery foam flakes which marked the main track of the current. It had scarce sailed a yard when it was chucked down, and I hove out a trout; in a few minutes and in a few yards space I took out four, from half a pound to a pound each. My time being spent, and wanting no more, I was winding up, when an old craftsman (who had toiled through a fishless day) dropped upon us, and seeing the four trout alive and jumping in his path, stood amazed, and asked what I had taken them with, I answered, the green drake, but did not add the important point, it was alive. Next afternoon (which was sunny and the drakes hatching) I saw the old craftsman, the late Miles Shepherd, whipping up the mill-race with his usual small fly dexterity, and met him on the spot I had killed the four: "What sport, Mr. Shepherd." "Sport, M——l, why no sport at all; I went to Jackey Stubbs, and he dressed me a green drake, and they wont touch it—I reckon '*nowt*' of your green drakes;" and making no stop, away walked the disappointed angler; and, I believe, never troubled the fishery more with the green drake.

John Stubbs's imitations were bad to equal; and Miles Shepherd was the most successful small flyfisher in all the neighbourhood. In April and May he frequently brought home, from the Laver, his pannier full of trout, some a

pound to two pounds weight. He was dexterous in whipping his flies beneath bushes, and over the haunts of large trout. His favorite fly was the freckled dun, the produce of the stickbait, which he called his "moorcock and spicy silk." But the first generation of the freckled dun had past, or was eclipsed by the green drake, then in full force; and the artificial green drake in the sunny calm, was in total eclipse by the living fly; which would have filled a pannier in an hour. Those who practice flyfishing in all its varieties, find, amidst the changes of weather and waters, suitable times and occasions for either, and neither overrate the one or undervalue the other.

63RD.—GREY DRAKE.[35]—Size about the same as the green drake, but smarter, and shews her real colors. Wings transparent and sparkling, of an inky tinge, with dark or black veins and crossings, thickening to the shoulders, the tops of which are dark; and the spots or marks on the joints of the body dark and distinct, of a deep red or black brown ground. Body and shoulders a creamy yellow white, dimly transparent; some with long whisks and long forelegs, of a light ale tinge and transparency; case or pellet eyes—which varieties appear in some individuals—of most species of the drakes.

Hackled for wings with a black cock's hackle; for legs fibres of red brown hair; body, light cream colored smooth woollen thread, warped with eight or nine open rounds of brown floss silk.

The grey drake continues the history of the green one; unencumbered with the green mantle, the grey drake pursues her pleasures with ease and vivacity. She shuns the

(35) This fly is the metamorphosis of the female "Green Drake," it is said by some authorities to be a good evening fly, but I cannot speak very highly of it from my own experience; the author's dressing is too dark, and would more closely imitate the "Black Drake," to which the male "Green Drake" changes; the best material to employ for the wings is that recommended both by Jackson and Ronalds, viz., the mottled feather from a mallard, stained faintly purple.

streams and seeks society, and soon they draw together in increasing numbers. Towards evening they muster in swarms in the vicinity of the streams, towering upwards, higher than the eye can see. Each individual fly keeps long on the wing, in up and down motion, rising and falling nearly perpendicularly; this is repeated each evening until the females leave the society and repair back to the waters, which is often their destruction, but the salvation of their offspring. She fearlessly braves all its dangers, hovers over it, and frequently drops upon it to deposit her future progeny safely on its surface, which seems to be her only care and last enjoyment in life. After laying her eggs she becomes weak and languid; numbers fall exhausted on the waters and are taken by the fishes, or die. Their continuation as green and grey drakes may be for six weeks, when they disappear for the year—small groups of later flies may be sometimes seen to the end of July. In this manner the blue, brown, checkwing, the watchets, and all the drake species have their beginning, career, and end of life. The brood or swarm of each species, at their appointed times, burst from their creeper skins at the top of the water, sport their short lives, and make their exit similar to the green and grey drake.

64TH.—WHITE DRAKE.—Length about one-eighth, altogether white, except a brown dab on the top of the shoulders; wings rather broad, and shew pinky tints; body thickish, with three whisks. After casting is much smarter, and the dab on the shoulders a fine rufous or red brown. There is another variety of the same size, but a pale blue color—both are too small for the purposes of the angler.

This little peri, like a small atom of waxwork, is the smallest of the drake tribes mentioned here. They come out of the water on warm afternoons, and may be seen in great numbers from six to seven o'clock in serene and sunny

evenings, when they will alight on the fisherman's garments, and cast their skins on his hat or coat. Numbers may be seen on the battlements of bridges, etc., the latter part of this month, and nearly through June. It is curious to see how dexterously they slip off their skins with their fore legs, "as sharp," says the razor grinder, "as a lady doffs her bonnet and shawl."

65TH.—BLACK AND YELLOW SPINNER.—Length, half an inch to five-eighths; wings about the same, which are fine and transparent, of a rufous brown tinge, with dark veins, and a small staddle near the end; head and top of shoulders a fine bright yellow, with a black line down the back and belly, and black spots along each side. The shoulders are large, some freckled black and yellow at the sides. The females are the largest and the colors not so perfect; in many the yellow is dull, and the black, brown. They appear the latter part of this month, and are out daily until evening, into July. There is a smaller species, about three-eighths, nearly the same colors, and out much in the evenings.

Wings, slips from the woodcock; body, shoulders, and head, yellow silk, marked and warped with black; legs, a dark red cock's hackle.

66TH.—BLACK SPINNER.—Length three-eighths and one-sixteenth to half an inch; wings the same, of an inky tinge and transparency; and the fly altogether a dull black or dark brown color—except the thighs, which are of a dull ale transparency, darkening down the legs. Appear the latter end of this month, and continue into July.

Wings from the swift, coot, or water-hen; body, dark brown silk; legged with a black-red cock's hackle.

67TH.—BLUE SPINNER (or gnat).—Full length near or

about a quarter; wings not quite so long, transparent, and of a blue tinge, with small longitudinal lines, and a black spot towards the end of the outer edge; body pointed, and a little more cylindrical and full than the black gnat, which, with the shoulders, reflect an ashy blue shade, darker on the back; head and legs a dark brown. They are bred in the water, and commence hatching the latter end of last month, increasing to great numbers, and are on the waters through September.

Body, light ashy blue silk, hackled, for wings and legs, with a cock-pheasant's neck feather, or from the starling or rook.

68TH.—BROWN DUN.—Full length half an inch; length, a quarter and one-sixteenth; wings veined lengthways, and when closed are of a dark dull brown hue, not very downy, but rather hairy on the shoulders. Body small, of a dark brown or chocolate hue, with light side lines; legs and feelers a brown ale dim transparency. Hatch the latter end of this month, and are out at seven in the evening through June.

Slips for wings from a brown hen or brown owl; legged with mohair or hen hackle, or hackled for wings and legs with the same; body coppery silk, tinged with water-rat's blue fur.

69TH.—SAILOR BEETLE.—Length various, from a quarter to three-eighths or better. Color altogether red or amber, of lighter or darker shades, except the ends of the top wings, which are tipped with black, with a dark or black line on the upper edges, and are of amber transparency. Eyes black; under-wings a bloa brown transparency, veined and clouded with lighter and darker—resembles the soldier beetle, except the dark or black line on the top edge of each wing. Are numerous among the grass until July.

Wings, amber feather tipped with black, from the cock-pheasant's breast; body orange silk, with a few fibres of orange mohair at the breast for legs.

NOTE.—Numerous swarms of different flies now meet their arch enemy, the swift, which, like a winged dart, cleaves their devoted ranks. The angler's list shrinks when compared with the vast varieties. House flies, spinners, beetles, etc., increase and expand their species far beyond the ken of the flyfisher—whose skill is often foiled when the fish are rising around him at some fly or insect known to themselves only. Many of the choicest species of the three aquatic tribes, the brown drakes and duns, are this month in their greatest numbers and virgin freshness; while trout are exceedingly bold and their appetites keen. The needle, Royal Charlie; light mottled, and bloa browns; the blue, brown, red brown, checkwing, iron blue, dark, and light drakes; also the light and freckled duns, etc., are all hatching and on the water, more or less, daily; and the gravel spinners are in their best perfection. All these are first-rate day flies for trout, and may be used at the times of hatching, or such as are most numerous on the water, or the fish are taking. Any others hitherto mentioned may be selected from the list, and tried with or without the hackles. Some of the duns and drakes assemble, on warm evenings, this month, and lay their eggs on the water, which commences evening fishing. The three superiors—the stone fly, green drake, and red dun—are in conjunction this month. The stone fly commences her imperial reign about the eighth, and the green drake about the twenty-fourth. When the weather is genial, at the times of hatching and coming on the water of these two flies, the trout generally take their fulth of them in preference to all others, when the natural flies only can succeed; but if rude, stormy weather then prevails, it gives good imitations a chance. The red dun is a fine large

night fly, when she may be taken; but she is not much used or noticed by the craft.

JUNE.

THE queen and empress reign harmonious, and shine resplendent in the gilded sides of the fatted trout! The travelling stream presents its daily stores, and nightly forages gorge his craving maw. Stately he glides in his forenoon rounds, and selects his lunch from the browns or checkwing. Drowsy he doses the sultry hours of noon, till roused by the Queen to dinner; and he sups through the night until gorged by visits of the Imperial fly. Grayling cling close to the bustle of sharp streams, but are ever found in the eddies.

70TH.—HORNED DUN.[36]—Full length, half an inch and one-sixteenth; length near half an inch; top wings a darkish cigar brown, rather lighter on the main veins, and downy; head, dark, flat, and downy; shoulders a dark brown color, and downy; body, a dark leady color; belly, ashy reflections; thighs, ashy; legs, light brown; feelers often erected upright, like horns, which has named them. They com-

(36) Mr. Francis informs me that in the south they class together a great number of flies similar to the above under the common denomination of "Sedge Fly;" they belong to the numerous family of the Phryganidæ, of which perhaps the "Sand Fly," "Green-tail" and "Cinnamon Fly," are the most useful types; the author reproduces an unnecessary number of these flies, all having the same dressing for their bodies, viz., "copper-coloured silk tinged with water-rat's fur." Mr. Francis is of opinion that the fish feed principally upon these insects in the caddis state, but that at times they may prove useful in the evening.

mence hatching with the month, and are out in the day-time and evenings.

Wings, slips from a bloa brown feather from a snipe or dotterell's wing; body, copper-colored silk, tinged with water-rat's fur; legs, a light gingery hen hackle or mohair.

71ST.—JUMPER BEETLE.[37]—Full length, about a quarter, plump and thick; head and eyes black; shoulders red; top wings a brown red, and of amber transparency; under-wings fine, of a bloa brown tinge and transpareny; body, a light red or amber; legs notched, and a red brown color, the hind ones long, and seem fixed low on the breast-plate near the centre of the belly, as if for jumping, from which they are named. They are most numerous about the middle of next month, and may be found out in the day time, and often on spider webs.

Head, black silk; shoulders and body bright orange or yellow; wings, the amber part of a cock-pheasant's breast; and a light red brown hen hackle for legs.

72ND.—TUFTED DUN.[38]—Full length, three-eighths or better; top wings covered with a light red brown down, which fringes the edges, and are of a light red snuffy transparency. Under-wings thin and fringed, of a bloa brown transparency; body, a blue dun, with light side lines; legs, a light stone color; shoulders hairy, with a tuft on the top of the head, which distinguish and name them. The feelers

(37) "Wren-tail" of Ronalds, "Jumper" of Jackson. The latter remarks that this insect is very abundant at hay-making time, when they sometimes get on to the water and are taken by the fish. The best method of imitation is to wrap the feather from a wren's tail hacklewise upon a body of yellow silk.

(38) Another of the Phryganidæ family, which I am inclined to think is intended for the "Cinnamon Fly," the body does not compare, however, with that of the latter-named fly, but as I pointed out in a foregoing note (36), the author gives one dressing for the bodies of nearly all this class, which is far from being correct. For the body of the "Cinnamon Fly," Mr. Ronalds says fawn-coloured floss silk, tied on with silk thread of the same colour; Jackson, orange and straw-coloured silk; and Mr. Francis dark barm-coloured silk. This fly generally kills best after a slight shower.

are a red brown freckle, and dim transparency; they often stand erect, and seem jointed to two short tufts, which stand upright on the head. They hatch this month, in the middle of the day, and are out in the evenings; they are often met with under broad leaves by the water sides.

Wings selected from the landrail, or a red or yellow dun hen; body, copper-colored silk, tinged with water-rat's fur; legs, a cream-colored hen hackle, or light hairs from the hare's ear.

73RD.—VERMILLION DRAKE.—Length, near a quarter; wings, near a quarter, which, with the legs and whisks, are of a dim light (almost white) transparency; shoulders and body a light lemony ground of dim transparency, touched and pencilled on the upper parts with a rich vermillion red. She hatches about the middle of this month, on warm sunny afternoons, and continues into July. She casts her skin; which takes with it the vermillion touches, when her body and shoulders are of a rich lemon or straw color; wings, clear and glassy, with pinky sparklings. She is a pet of summer, not very numerous, and probably of no use to the angler; her delicate texture and colors are bad to imitate,

Small straw or lemon colored silk, and a small white pinky cock's hackle, for legs and wings.

74TH.—DARK PIED DUN.[39]—Full length three-eighths; length about a quarter; feelers near five-eighths, spotted light and dark. Wings a very dark dun, almost black, with two small white lines on the upper, and two on the lower edge of each; and, when folded, the upper lines join and form two small white stripes across the back, tinged

(39) I am inclined to think that this fly is intended to represent the "Black Silver-horns" of Jackson, and that the following fly, No. 75, is the variety with a bright jet black wing which Mr. Ronalds states is found upon some streams; Jackson styles the latter "The Shining Black Silver-horns;" I have met with them both on the Yore, near Masham, but on no other Yorkshire river. Mr. Francis states that this fly is a favourite with the fish in the north of France, but I have never had great sport with it myself.

blue at the edges. Head, shoulders, body, and thighs, a dark brown dun color, with the light side marks on the body; legs and feet a light stone color. Is hatching this month, and out in the daytime and evenings, into August, when they may be seen on bridges or on spider webs.

Wings from a blackbird's wing feather that has a reddish tinge on the under side; body coppery silk, tinged with water-rat's fur; hen hackle or hairs from the hare's ear for legs.

75TH.—BLACK DUN.[40]—Full length, three-eighths to near half an inch; length, a quarter or better; feelers, five-eighths to an inch. Is altogether of the bright black hue of the crow; the legs and feelers rather browned. Hatches this month. Small groups may be seen flying near the edges of the navigation, at 6 p.m., through July.

Wings from the water-hen, coot, or crow; body and shoulders dark leady brown silk, with a few fibres of dark brown mohair at the breast for legs.

76.—WHITE DUN[41] (or Bustard).—Full length near or about an inch; length, three quarters to seven-eighths. The top wings are near seven-eighths, and slant down over the sides, like the duns. The top sides are a glossy silvery white, the under-sides freckled with brown; the other parts are all of a light tawny amber, and yellow shades. The breast, head, shoulders, and body, are thickly laid with a fine down of the same hues, with a long yellow silken fringe at the back of each thigh. The shoulders are thick, and about

(40) *Vide* the preceding note.

(41) In Yorkshire, night fishing with the natural "Bustard" is little indulged in by anglers, but on the Eden, in the Carlisle and Appleby districts, very heavy baskets of large trout are taken by the local experts; neither Jackson or Ronalds mention this fly, which is in reality a moth. Mr. Francis gives the following dressing for its imitation: body, white crewel or white ostrich harl; legs, white hen's hackle; and wings, either a couple of slips of white goose feather, or a bit of the soft underwing of the grey owl; hook No. 5 or 6.

half the length; body and upper parts touched with brown; belly, of some, bare, and of a yellow bees'-wax hue, ending in a blunt point; the feelers are short, and of an amber hue; eyes, dark or black.

Slips for wings may be found in the white or broken feathers of the yellow or screech owl; body, etc., light tawny colored woollen thread, legged with a tawny hen hackle.

The white dun, or "bustard" of the craft, is classed with the duns, being nearly of the same construction, but is considered a land fly. They appear about the middle of this month, and continue until near the end of July. They are found flying about in meadows and long grass, from half-past nine to half-past ten at night, when they are taken by the craft and fished natural, with great success, for large trout take them greedily in streams where the stone fly does not come or is on the decline. These large flies are generally fished natural, which is termed "dibbing" or "dabbing." The stone fly, green and grey drakes, and white bustard, are the chief, being all good to get. There is the brown bustard and spotted moth, both night flies, but do not shew themselves in numbers like the others. They come out about half-past nine every fine night, and continue into August. The brown bustard is similar in size and shape to the white—top wings shades of brown, with zig-zag lines and marble streaks; the other parts red brown, about the shade of the tawny parts of hare's fur. The spotted moth: length five-eighths; wings three-quarters, which it erects like a butterfly, or lays them flat like a moth; they are of a yellow white ground, spotted with a rich dark brown, touched at the shoulders and across the broad parts with yellow. Under-wings, no yellow and less spotted; body and shoulders smooth fleshy and yellow, with a black spot on the top of the shoulders and each joint down the back, and black spots along each side. Feelers

three-eighths, which, with the legs, are a red brown dim transparency. There is also a light freckled brown moth, of the size of the spotted, but more downy, and of the tawny hue. There are other moths out at night in the summer part of the season, of the dark brown freckle of the night-jar, but the light colored flies are best taken. There is a small long-snouted (three-eighths) silvery moth makes itself very conspicuous, from its numbers, from eight to ten on fine evenings through July ; and sometimes rouses the smaller fish. It often occurs, in both moths and flies, that there are two or three different sizes, all of the same colors —like the freckled, little freckled, and least freckled duns, etc., etc.

77TH.—RED ANT FLY.[42]—Full length, three-eighths to half an inch ; length, a quarter to three-eighths ; wings the same, which are veined, and of a brown tinge ; they fold flat one upon the other over the back, and reach beyond the body. Shoulders and body thick ; waist small, which, with the head, are all of a dark red brown color, legs and feelers the same ; when held up to the light, shew thick amber and red transparencies. Are altogether glossy and smooth, but a fine short hair may be seen, through a glass, on the parts which, in the sun, throw off short gilded reflections. They are well taken by the fish whenever they come upon the waters. This species have but one pair of wings.

The shoulders and body are usually formed with a small strand of a peacock's feather, with small red or amber silk, with a few fibres of red brown mohair wrought in at the

(42) This is a favourite fly of mine during July, August, and September ; in the latter month grayling take it readily, and I seldom fish without having one on my cast. In Derbyshire the local anglers use the ant's egg as a bottom bait, I am told, with considerable success, but I have never seen it used upon any of the Yorkshire rivers, and have never tried it myself. Mr. Ronalds remarks, "The ant eggs used as a bottom bait after a fresh, are, in fact, cocoons, inclosing the insects in a pupa state."

breast, for legs; wings, slips from the light brown web of a feather in the snipe or starling's wing.

The red ant fly plants her colony on the ground, in or near woods, and often on the sloping banks of rivers and small streams, in dry and sheltered places, there they find protection and materials for building their city, which is composed of small pieces of dried sticks, straws, stones, and dead leaves, etc., which they form into mounds or beds, with passages into the interior, extending the suburbs as the citizens increase. There are several beds in Mackershaw, on the Skell, and in Magdalen's wood opposite Hackfall, on the Ure. Their sizes vary in different situations; the largest are found in the dells and sheltered places on the edges of the moors. Near Mr. Calvert's stone quarry, in Skellgill, there are several beds, and the ants are larger than those below. The winged portion begin to leave their colony next month in vast swarms; the country people sometimes see them take wing on warm sultry days, which, they say, is prognostic of wet weather. They are a marvellous insect; the Supreme has written their everlasting laws, which they all instinctively obey, and the power that entailed labour upon them made that labour voluntary. There is a large bed just within the low fence of the plantation in Mall White, well worth the walk to see. The scriptural mandate, "Go to the ant," etc., may be applied generally, for—as well as their lessons of industry—they cannot but create the most lively feelings of admiration and wonder in all who behold them.

78TH.—WHITE-LEGGED DUN.—Full length about three-eighths; feelers three-eighths, rankly marked light and dark; wings a dark brown dun or chocolate hue, with light reddish touches; eyes, shoulders, and body, dark brown dun, almost black; part of thighs, legs, and feet, a dull white. When looked through to the light is of a dark dun

bloa hue, except the legs, which show light. They are hatching this month, and may be seen through the next and into autumn, flying about the waters, at seven p.m.

Wings from a dark broken feather from the moorcock or snipe; slaty ashy silk for body; and a light gingery hackle with a black stripe down the middle for legs.

79TH.—DOTTEREL DUN.—Full length, five-eighths; length, three-eighths; feelers half an inch; head, breast, shoulders, thighs, legs, and feelers, a dim honey dun tinge, or the hue of the tawny part of hare's fur; body the same, but tinged leady; wings not downy, and narrow, close more cylindrical, like the browns, and answering in shade to the outside of a dotterel's wing; eyes dark or black. Hatches early this month, and may be seen wheeling to and fro over the water on fine evenings, at six p.m., through July.

Body, etc., copper-colored silk, slightly tinged with water rat's fur; winged and legged with a dotterel's feather, or winged with slips and a few fibres of mohair or hare's ear, wrought in at the breast.

80TH.—BLACK ANT FLY.[43]—Full length, about three-eighths and one-sixteenth; length near a quurter; has two pairs of wings, the top ones better than a quarter, under-wings one-eighth and one-sixteenth, both stand on the shoulder, one just behind the other; the fore-legs are at the breast of the same shoulder, the other four on the joint next the body. The wings fold flat over the body, and appear of a silvery whiteness, and glassy transparency, with a few small dark veins; head, shoulders, and body, a black Japan color and brightness; legs and feelers, dark ale transparency.

Wings, a silvery grizzle cock's hackle; dark blood red

(43) The imitation of this variety of the ant tribe is of little service to the angler, and is consequently but seldom employed.

or black silk, well waxed, for body, etc.; with a few fibres of dark red mohair at the breast for legs.

The black ant selects for her dwelling the roots of large oak or other trees, that are decayed, or have openings sufficient to admit them; she is constantly busy, and has her time of swarming, like the red ant. There is a community of them within the roots of a large oak tree, that stands close to the stile by the footpath near Masterman's cottage, going to Whitcliffe. Some may be seen with wings, the beginning of next month; they are tender and susceptible of cold, only coming out freely on warm soft days, and most towards evening.

NOTE FOR JUNE.—This radiant remnant of the spring consigns her vast handiworks to summer, and mazy multitudes of insects are on the wing both day and night. The rising sun rouses the day tribes, and its setting rays rise those of the night. The Empress and fairy queen enter the month in full force: the Empress, with her nocturnal allies, revel through the short twilight of night, which is as fishable as the day. The amber drake, with all her kindred of red drakes; the red dun, with all her nightly trains of duns, throng the waters, and are taken by the fishes, through the shades of night; but the princely trout prefers the Imperial fly. The fairy queen, with the day tribes—the browns, drakes, and duns, spinners, house flies, and beetles, revel their rounds through the lengthy light warm day, but when the Queen appears in sunny spendour she eclipses all, and foils the craftsman's mimic art; and, be it remembered, that foul days for the Queen are fine days for the Empress. The vast variety of flies—their various times of hatching, and appearance on the water—with the varying tastes of the fish—render variety the order of the day, extending through the night. On seasonable days, in the morning part, when flies are thin on the water, the black gnat, needle

brown, and house fly, may be tried, along with the hackles. In the forenoon the aquatics of last month are hatching and out, when the light mottled, and bloa browns, the check-wing (hatching numerous, and probably the best), light and dark drakes, may be tried; and as they decline, in the afternoon, tribes of smaller flies increase; when the needle and yellow brown (yellow Sally), little light, and little dark drakes (some in their red dresses), the little freckled dun, black and blue gnats, etc., may be fished until or after sunset, when the larger drakes and duns come out for twilight fishing. Any of these flies may be changed for any of the others, during fishing hours, as circumstances may require; and any that are not taken, change for those that are—for change and variety is the order of the day.

JULY.

THE stars of the spring are fading, but their splendour remains in the trout! Fat and capricious, the gilded monarch selects his fulth from the good things that surround him. When hot droughty days drain the streams to the springs, when flies disperse through the warm air, and soar up aloft with the swallow, the crystal streams are bare, and bad to lure is the cunning quick-eyed trout. Seek him in his brooks and shaded retreats—screened from his view, dib in his round with finest tackle the living house fly; in the evenings and twilight ply him with the duns, the drakes, and the moths. After loud thunders and reeking rains freshen and revive nature, float over the dark waters the welcome fly, or jerk in his glimpse the glishing minnow, nor leave him alone in his glory!

81ST.—SPOTTED WHISK DRAKE.—Length a quarter; wings a quarter, which are fine and of a light blue bloa tinge; shoulders strong, and, with the body, are of a dark red brown color; legs a pale ale or gingery transparency; large dark eyes; whisks a light hair-like transparency, spotted with dark.

Body orange silk, waxed; hackled with a small snipe bloa feather, or from the tern or sea swallow; with a few fibres of light red mohair or squirrel's fur at the breast.

After casting becomes a small red drake; hackled, for wings and legs, with a small red cock's hackle; orange silk for body, waxed at the shoulders.

82ND.—FRINGED DUN.—Full length a quarter; length one-eighth and one-sixteenth; top wings a light cigar brown color, and bloaish transparency, fringed long at the edges; legs and body a red brown transparency; eyes dark. Are out and hatching in the day time.

May be hackled with a feather selected from the dotterel or sandpiper; copper-colored silk, with a few fibres of hare's ear or squirrel's fur at the breast.

83RD.—ORANGE BROWN.—Full length better than half an inch; length about three-eighths; feelers a quarter, notched light and dark; eyes small and dark; top of head, shoulders, and closed wings appear of a middle brown, of an orange tinge; shoulders, body, and legs are orange bottom, touched and marked with light brown; wings three-eighths or better; veined from the shoulders, and crossed half length; are of a pale reddish brown or light amber tinge—a rich orange hue and transparency pervades the whole of the fly. They are hatching this month, and are out daily to near evening until October.

Hackled or winged with a landrail's feather; bright orange silk for body; with a few fibres of mohair or squirrel's fur at the breast.

84TH.—LIGHT PIED DUN.—Full length, about three-eighths and one-sixteenth. Top wings covered and fringed with a fine fawn-colored down, which glistens in the sun with coppery and gilded reflections, and are of a darkish red brown transparency. Feelers five-eighths, spotted rank light and dark; forehead and legs white, with sprinklings of darker, and has white strokes on the wings, same as the dark pied dun; body coppery, with a purple tinge. They are hatching this month; numbers may be seen flying about and running on the battlements of North Bridge, at seven o'clock on fine evenings, to the end of August.

Wings from the landrail or bronzy yellow-brown hen; coppery silk for the body, slightly tinged, white for the head; legged with a yellow white hen hackle or hairs from the hare's ear.

85TH.—GREY DUN.—Full length, five-eighths; length, near half an inch; top wings a light grey freckle—like the ends of the feathers on the back of the yellow owl—and of a yellowish dim transparency; under-wings plain bloa; thighs, legs, breast, and feelers a honey or dull copper color; body, blue dun. Was taken from under a stone by the water's edge, just hatched, about the middle of this month, but has not been seen since. Is a fine fleshy fly, equal in size to the light and dark duns, of which it may be a variety. There is a smaller species, about half an inch full length, and nearly the same in colors, out at the same time.

Wings may be found in the light freckled feathers of the mallard; body copper-colored silk, tinged with water-rat's fur; and legged with a yellow dun hen hackle.

86TH.—CORAL-EYED DRAKE.—Length, near three-eighths; wings the same, of a fine slaty bloa tinge; legs, whisks, shoulders, and body, a dim amber ground and transparency; touched with brown or darkish coral-red on the top of the shoulders and down the back; eyes round and

cockling, like two little coral shot-corns. Hatches in good numbers the latter part of this month, and continues through the next. After casting her skin she is a very neat and cockish fly. Her wings are clear, sparkling with red tinges; large eyes, cockling, round, and red; shoulders, body, and legs, light amber ground; top of shoulders and down the back a darkish coral red; two or three longish whisks. Their creepers are numerous, and may be found under stones just within the water's edge. They shew the dark wings through their thin skins, which, when cast off, appear almost colorless, and dry white.

Hackled for wings in the first state with a light blue bloa or blue dun feather from the water-rail or sea swallow; pale amber silk for body, headed with a round of the red part of a small strand in the eye of a peacock's feather; legged with a few fibres of squirrel's fur or mohair. Second state: winged and legged with a fine amber cock's hackle.

87TH.—PALE BLUE DRAKE.[44]—Length about a quarter; wings the same; altogether of a light dull pale blue color. She throws off her swaddlings and shews her glistening wings and blue dun body and legs.

Hackled in her first state with a light blue dun feather from the tern, and light ashy blue silk for body. Second state: light blue cock's hackle for wings and legs.

88TH.—BRONZE BEETLE.—Full length a quarter; head, shoulders, and body black; top wings a light brassy shine, with small dabs or marks of darker, and of dim amber transparency, shewing the dark touches; under-wings clear, of

(44) During the summer months there are a variety of pale duns which answer to the author's description of this fly. Mr. Ronalds gives it among his flies for September under the name of the "Little Pale Blue Dun"; Jackson also gives it in September as the "Light Olive Bloa," but I cannot understand why he styles it "Olive," as his dressing is essentially similar to the author's; I never found it a very killing fly, being too delicate to imitate effectively.

a brown tinge; honey glistening legs. Out on fine days, often in good numbers, into autumn.

Head, shoulders, and body, black silk; wings a slightly broken feather from an old bright bronzy yellow brown hen; legged with a few fibres of mohair.

89TH.—LITTLE BROWN DUN.[45]—Full length, rather better than three-eighths; wings near three-eighths, top ones a dark whalebone brown, set round the ends with small light spots; shoulders and body a dark dull brown, belly rather lighter; legs and thighs a dim fleshy transparency; wings a bloaish transparency; feelers spotted light and dark. Are hatching and breeding and out in the evening, about six o'clock, wheeling in small groups to and fro, just over the water. There is another small brown dun, rather less than a quarter.

Hackled, for wings, with a small slightly freckled feather from the moorcock; with a few fibres of red brown fur or mohair at the breast; body, deep coppery silk, waxed.

90TH.—LATE BLACK SPINNER, GNAT, OR FLY.[46]—Full

(45) "Brown Silver-horns" of Francis; "Light Silver-horns" of Jackson; not mentioned in Ronalds, although he gives the black and shining black varieties. On the Wharfe the local anglers usually dress this fly hacklewise with feather from a thrush's wing and ruddy brown silk, I have killed some good grayling with this pattern used as an evening fly.

(46) This is the autumn edition of that diminutive insect usually denominated the "angler's curse," and a very appropriate title it is, for when the surface of the stream is literally boiling with fish rising at the black midge, nothing will induce them to even look at the imitation; I have a vivid recollection of one day in particular, when Mr. Marston (editor of the *Fishing Gazette*) and myself spent the whole of a September day upon the Wharfe, exercising our utmost skill and patience for the grand result of a brace and a half of small fish; on all sides of us large grayling were rising in real earnest at this little pest, but although we employed the finest of drawn gut, and the most minute of artificials, we might as well have thrown in our hats. The following patterns were afterwards sent to me by Mr. Marston, they were recommended to that gentleman by Mr. Hall, of Bristol, and I append them for the benefit of such of my readers who may feel inclined to try their skill during a visitation of the "curse."

No. 1. Body, two strands of a turkey's tail feather; hackle, from a starling; wings, ditto.

length, a quarter; wings not so much, which are of a clear inky tinge, and fold over the back like those of the blue gnat; body black, more cylindrical and rather longer; shoulders a bright Japan black; legs black. Out all day to near the end of the season.

Body, black silk; wings and legs a neck feather from the cock-pheasant or starling.

NOTE.—The empress declines, and the needle yellow and orange brown are all that remain of her kindred. The needle and yellows are hatching and on the water daily in great numbers; the orange are not so numerous, but are rarely refused by the trout. All the various sized drakes for small flyfishing—the checkwing, and wings of all shades, from the pale blue dun of the tern to the dark plum hue of the water-hen and coot—are hatching and taken by the fish, in the day time and again in the evening, in their second dresses. The little freckled duns are hatching very numerous, and the spinner tribes in great numbers and varieties. The spinner and black and yellow spinner may be fished natural, for the fish are in the midst of living food; and the trout, like the lion, "feeds on nothing that doth seem as dead." Flights of ants and the pismire tribes are common this month. The beetle and house fly tribes have their turns with the fish. The wily craftsman strives to fall in with the favorite, when he marks the fish rising, and notes each flitting fly; for the flies and the fish must lead him the way. At this high temperature of the air, the

No. 2. Body, two strands of a magpie's tail feather; wings and hackle, starling.

No. 3. As No. 2, but employing the scales of a pike for the wings.

No. 4. Body, heron's feather; hackle, dark starling. I may add that the flies, or rather midges, dressed according to the above patterns, which Mr. Marston kindly sent for my inspection, were simply perfection; they were, I believe, dressed by Mr. Hall himself, and were tied upon the patent-eyed hooks which were invented by that gentleman. No. 3 was a triumph of art, the pike's scales exactly imitating the wings of the natural insect; the hooks are, however, necessarily so very small, that when the fish is hooked, the chance of landing him is extremely remote, consequently I do not consider that "the game is worth the candle."

aquatic flies are strong at hatching, and on seasonable days soon out of the reach of the fish. The red drakes and the duns come out numerous for evening and twilight fishing. The bustard enters the month in full force, and may be fished so long as she continues. In the early part of the season when flies are few, fish rise freely and give good sport; but, as the vital heat of the sun keeps increasing so do the flies; and after the fish are fatted with the stone fly, green drake, etc., the sport languishes, and July and August, the two centre months, and most salubrious of the season, are generally considered the worst for flyfishing; the variety of food and easy circumstances of the fish, lessen the chance of success, and require the flyfisher to be more particular and nearer the mark than in the spring. Good imitations of the favorite flies, fished naturally at their time of hatching, can only keep pace with the choice of the fish, and on healthsome cool breezy days, which whet up their appetites, the flyfisher may have good sport.

AUGUST.

THE lofty swift prunes her wing for departure, first index to a change. No longer do sportive swarms of flies feed her in her airy tracks. Numbers of tiny tribes now end their summer trip; and less and less are the numbers that succeed; but still the waters, the storehouses of the angler, pour forth daily supplies. "All's fish that comes to the net." Trout, grayling, and smelt! how beautiful to the flyfisher as he dishes them from his pannier. The full-ripe trout feeds secure at the bottom, or with majestic caution rises scrupulous at the well scanned fly; or like the monarch of the wood, "fleshes his tooth" in his nightly prowls.

Grayling range the stills, watching the streams and catching the food they bring. The reckless young smelt springs boldly at the maggoted hook, an easy prey for the tyro.

From the beginning of the season to the present month, the sun seems to have about finished his annual work of reproduction of the insect tribes, and such angling flies as are now in existence, or may hatch or come upon the waters during the remainder of the season, are continuations (or the second swarms) of those species that have been described in the list. Some of the later flies slightly differ from those of the spring, in sizes and shades, and may or may not be of the same species, but not to entitle them to other names, which might render the list less distinct and clear. The waters are full of creepers, and numbers of flies are hatching daily, particularly drakes and duns, the former the most numerous in the day time, which, with their changes of colors, long and short whisks, long fore legs, case and round eyes, etc., present many varieties for examination and copy.

The following extracts from Note-books may best shew the flies, etc., that are hatching and on the water during the remaining months of the season. They were written from observation, made on or about the days mentioned, in many different years.

EXTRACTS FROM NOTE BOOKS.

AUGUST FIRST.

Checkwing.—Rather larger and lighter in shades than the spring description. Wings distinctly crossed and tinged to the shoulders with dull pale yellow; head, top of shoulders, and down the back, light yellow green or pale brown olive; a dark line on the lower edge of each joint of the body, crosses the back and slants on the side to the next joint. Throat, breast, belly, and legs a greenish yellow; eyes dark. Is a thick, fleshy, fine fly; one cast its skin in the flybox, which changed it to the red drake. Length, near half an inch; wings clear, squared, and sparkling, with red and amber towards the shoulders. Legs, head, shoulders and body, light red or ambry foundation, touched on the upper parts with dark red or brown, shewing the slanting lines on the sides.

Blue drake.—Not so large as the spring flies. Length, a quarter and near a sixteenth. Wings fine, and of the blue dun tinge; top of head, shoulders, and body, dark ashy hue, joints edged with lighter; belly and breast a blue dun tinge; legs a pale ale transparency, darkest to the feet. Taken from under a large leaf, that grows by the water sides, where many of the aquatic flies take rest after hatching. The blue drake, which hatches in cold weather, appears to cast off three protective skins. After the first she is of a lighter shade, and a smarter fly; second she is orange; and the third or last, when in a state of nudity or stripped to the (true) skin, a lemon or straw color. Examined one taken June 5th, at seven p.m.: length three-

eighths; whisks, three-eighths; wings fine and clear, of a faint smoky tinge; veins small; eyes small and dark, or black.

Iron blue drake.—Took one off a leaf, which cast its skin in the flybox, and became the pearl drake.

Pearl drake.—In small groups, flying up and down, or laying their eggs on the water daily. (The iron blue and her counterpart continue numerous through the month).

Little dark drake.—Hatching (another variety), length rather above a quarter; wings, the dark and leady hue; body and legs a yellowish olive brown.

Orange brown.—Hatching and out all fine days.

Light drake.—Hatching and out. Length a quarter (under the wing of judcock, with lemon colored silk).

Freckled dun.—Hatching and out in the daytime.

Little freckled dun.—Hatching very numerous, and out in the daytime.

Golden-legged beetle.—Out in the daytime.

Bloa brown.—Orange thighs—the same in spring. Seems of another genus, probably the *cleg.*

Needle browns.—Hatching in great numbers, and out all day.

Dark drake (watchet).—Hatching in good numbers, and a first favorite. Took one, which cast its skin in the flybox, and became the red drake. A sparkling and lively fly; out in good numbers in the evening; saw several on the North Bridge, Ripon, at seven p.m.

Light pied duns.—Out in the evenings; saw several on the North Bridge, at seven p.m.

FIFTH.

Coral-eyed drake.—Hatching and out in the daytime. Took several from under stones, in the evening, apparently hatched in the afternoon; one of them cast its skin in the

flybox. The cast off skin was very thin and nearly colorless, except when dried it looked white.

Checkwing.—Out and hatching. Took several from under stones, as if just hatched.

Black drake.—Nearly same as first; length only a quarter.

Black dun.—Hatching.

Needle brown, little freckled dun.—Out and hatching; numerous all day.

Early dun.—Hatching and out. Full length three-eighths. Light patch on the top edge of the wings.

Spinner.—In great numbers by the water sides and in the fields, all day, in their best perfection of size and summer beauty; of azure tints and rich transparencies.

Red ant fly.—On the water; full length, a quarter.

Black and yellow spinner.—Out until evening.

Orange brown.—Out until evening.

Dark drake (watchet).—Hatching freely and for some time back.

Light drake, black drake.—Hatching in the middle hours of the day.

Light pied duns.—Out in the evenings.

Little red drake, dark red drake.—Out in the evenings.

TENTH.

Blue drake, iron blue drake, pearl drake, little red drake, and needle brown.—Great numbers of these flies struggling alive in spider webs and on posts and rails, by the water sides, at three p.m.

Blue spinner or gnat.—Hatching in great numbers; several on the under side of a single stone, taken up by the hand from the edge of the water, when they had just come out.

FIFTEENTH.

Pied duns.—Numbers out in the evening.

Orange brown.—Full length, half an inch and near a sixteenth. Out plentiful.

Least freckled duns.—Vast numbers at six p.m., running in the sunshine, on walls, etc., near the water.

Checkwing.—Hatching, some a shade darker.

Red drake.—Out in the daytime, and assemble in the evening. Slanting lines on the sides.

Needle brown.—Numbers out and hatching. Brimstone colored backs, light grizzle legs, and steely blue wings.

TWENTIETH.

Blue drake.—Length, a quarter. Hatching numerous.

Blue spinner or gnat.—Out and hatching, increasing to great numbers towards evening.

Spinner.—Out through the day, but most numerous towards evening.

Black ants.—On the water in the afternoon until evening.

Needle brown, little freckled dun.—Hatching and out in great numbers until evening.

Orange brown.—Out and hatching.

Red ant.—Saw several beds at Mr. Calvert's stone quarry, in Skellgill; length, a quarter and a sixteenth to three-eighths. None with wings. Their eggs large, like small maggots. Opened a pismire bed at the same place, full of bright amber pismires, and numbers of them with thin glassy clear wings.

Light pied duns.—Out in the evening.

Late black spinner or gnat.—Out all day.

TWENTY-FIFTH.

Little dark drake.—Length, a quarter; wings, a dark reddish water-hen hue; legs, whisks, and body light red brown, with a dark spot on each joint of the body, along each side; eyes dark and goggling; longish fore-legs. A cockish, sprightly fly.

Checkwing.—Hatching; length, three-eighths; slanting dark lines on the sides. Altogether of a brown ambry transparency.

Light dun.—Full length, half an inch to near five-eighths; wings of the onion peel tinge, with light freckles; back and thighs tinged ashy; belly, bees'-wax or wheat corn color; legs and feelers light red brown. Hatch in the daytime, and are out numerous in the evenings, from eight to ten.

Little dark red drake.—Length a quarter; shoulders dark or black; yellow epaulettes on the sides of shoulders; small light spots along each side; wings finely crossed, glassy, and sparkling; long fore-legs.

Light drake.—Out and hatching in the daytime.

White bustard.—Took one—very late.

Dark drake (watchet).—Out and hatching, many on spider webs.

THIRTIETH.

Needle browns.—Hatching and out in great numbers in their best perfection. Full length of some, three-eighths and a sixteenth, or more; orange bodied, with black spots, and snipe bloa wings.

Red ant.—Full length better than a quarter. Saw numbers on the North Bridge at ten a.m. Wings near a quarter, tinged brown; body and legs red brown.

Oronge brown.—Out; saw some on the North Bridge. Cream-colored eggs on the last joints of the belly.

Light pied duns.—Out at seven p.m.

Red drakes.—Saw some on the North Bridge at seven p.m. large and beautiful, like amber drakes, and numbers of small *grey earwigs* at the same time.

Dark red drakes.—Out; length, a quarter and a sixteenth; wings rather more, clear, and scarcely visible but for the red tinges; three notched whisks; shoulders a darkish red; body a shade lighter; legs gingery.

Black ant flies.—Numbers struggling on spider webs wove in the angles of posts and rails by the water sides, where numbers of the larger, as well as the smallest flies of the day, are held fast in their fine fibred toils. Ambry at the feet and end of body.

Red ant fly.—Took one off a spider's web at Robin Hood, which sparkled in the sun with fire and gold, and of a dull amber transparency. Full length, near three-eighths; wings an amber tinge.

Red dun. Full length, three-quarters; length, half an inch; feelers, half an inch. Altogether of a dullish red or ambry hue; upper parts a shade darker. Body nearly cylindrical, with a few short hairs round the last joint; top wings slightly broken with veins and faint freckles; under wings thin and uniform, of a light shade of amber when looked through to the light, a red ambry tinge altogether. This fly was hatched in a water pot. The creeper was put in in May or June, and soon after fastened itself to the side, near the bottom, and was hatched on the 18th inst. The pot stood in the garden, and the fly was found floating on the water, alive and perfect, with its empty creeper skin beside it, and its empty artificial case fast to its original place. The pot was covered with a piece of gauze, fastened to a wire hoop, to prevent escape.

Late black gnat.—Out in the daytime.

NOTE FOR AUGUST.—The change of temperature of the air begins to tell on insects this month, and swarms of the tender tribes are swept off, but the waters continue full of creepers, the constant breeders are unimpaired, and the second swarms of some are turning out more numerous than the first. The extracts for the month are taken from notes made on fishing days and other times of research and observation, during the seasons of many years, which, after numberless close examinations and corrections, formed the foundation of the list of flies. The aquatic flies mentioned in them

this month are hatching and on the water, more or less, every day. The orange and needle browns are the only ones, of the stone fly class, that remain; the needles in their varieties and best perfection; and the orange browns, are excellent for trout through the day. The drakes are numerous in species and varieties, particularly the smaller tribes, which swell their numbers above any other class. The checkwing, light and dark drakes (watchets) in their grades of sizes and shades, with the iron blues, are hatching on the surface of the water, in the fore and afternoons, when many are snapped by the fishes, in the face of the unconscious angler, before they have used their wings. The duns are hatching; the second swarms of the light and freckled are turning out; which, with the little freckled dun, may be tried in the daytime, and again in the evening. The spinners are numerous, and good natural baits. The ants sometimes fall numerous on the waters this month, and are greedily taken by the fish.

SEPTEMBER.

THE sun, with his summer, is departing, but leaves a full lap to declining autumn. Trout, the prince of the sport, is on the wane, the hour of his prime and his beauty is passing. The merry Smelt and gliding Grayling mingle their charms with the lovely days of autumn. The air becomes thinned of towering tribes of tiny flies; but the waters—the wonderful waters!—half the life of our globe, which fosters in fields of ice the huge leviathan, and nurtures in its warm bosom the tender summer-bred fly, pours out its motley stores. Swallows flock on the house top, meditating their long flight, and the martins mingle at even in the willows their sonorous departing song.

SEPTEMBER FOURTH.

Orange brown, needle brown, dark drake, light drake (length a quarter), iron blue drake, little dark drake (quarter or better), checkwing, coral-eyed drake.—All out and hatching in the daytime. Numbers may be seen, in fine weather, in spiders' webs. The drakes cast their skins, and are most numerous about the waters a little before and after sunset. The checkwing is the finest; and the red drake nearly equal to the amber.

Blue drake.—Some near the size of the spring flies, but of browner shades, hatching in good numbers; one cast its skin and became the orange drake. Took one off a spider's web, length near three-eighths; wings three-eighths and a sixteenth, crossed into squares with fine lines, which alone made them visible; eyes like two light pearl pellets. Top of shoulders red; lighter down the back, and growing lighter to the belly; legs a pale dim amber; whisks an inch, and spotted. (Suppose the pearl-colored eyes not natural).

Little brown dun.—Wheeling over the water in small groups, at six p.m.

Fœted dun. Saw one similar, out in the day time.

Light dun.—Full length, half an inch and a sixteenth; yellow brown freckled wings; body, legs, and feelers, amber. Hatching and out, numerous, at 9 a.m.

Red dun.—Hatching daily, and out in the evenings.

Spinners.—Out numerous, and in best perfection.

Blue spinner or gnat.—Hatching, and out very numerous towards evening, flying and wheeling just over the water, like the black gnats in May and June.

House fly, cowdung or lion fly, bank fly.—Out from morning till night.

Golden-legged beetle, bronze beetle.—Out in the daytime.

Red ant fly.—On the water. Two pair of light fine transparent wings, of a bright brown tinge; shoulders and body

dark red brown, brightening to amber at the end of the body.

TENTH.

Orange brown.—Hatching and out, laying their eggs on the water, in the daytime.

Needle brown.—Hatching and out, very numerous all the day.

Dark drake.—Hatching and out. Wings a dark red plum hue, much crossed, the small ones conspicuous; large case eyes; body, a dark plum hue and orange bottom, with darker marks on the sides; legs a dim red fleshy transparency.

Little red drake.—Out in the daytime, and numerous in the evenings.

Blue drake.—Length, a quarter to near three-eighths; wings, smoky blue dun; body, dark brown red, lighter at each joint; small head; thickish shoulders; faint dark spots on the sides.

Hackled with a small feather from under the wing of judcock, pale amber silk, with hare's ear.

Checkwing.—Hatching. Wings, darkish; longish forelegs; case eyes; and slanting dark lines on the sides.

Red drake.—Out in the daytime and evenings. Length, about three-eighths; wings, clear and crossed, with amber glishes; body, amber ground, touched on the upper parts with Turkey red; dark slanting lines on the sides, and case eyes. (The checkwing before casting).

Pearl drake.—In groups at ten a.m., flying up and down, and laying their eggs on the water all day.

Least freckled dun.—Very numerous on fine days and sunny evenings, when they may be seen running on walls, bridges, etc., by the water sides.

Light dun.—Hatching and out at seven p.m.

White-legged dun.—Full length, a quarter and a sixteenth. Out in the daytime.

Spinner, blue spinner or gnat, late black spinner or gnat.—Out, and most numerous towards evening.

Bank fly, house fly, lion fly, blue bottle, bronze beetle, golden-legged beetle. Out all fine days.

Red ant fly. Full length, near half an inch; length, near three-eighths, one pair of wings strongly veined half way up, and the lower half of thick brown transparency, the upper half more clear. Shoulders about the same thickness as the body, red brown color. Taken in the evening off Bondgate Bridge, Ripon.

FIFTEENTH TO TWENTIETH.

Orange brown, needle brown.—Out and hatching.

Checkwing. Hatching in best perfection. Length, half an inch; wings, half an inch and a sixteenth, squared, and of light ambry brown; body, dim orange or amber, touched darker on the back, etc., with slanting dark lines on the sides.

Red drake (checkwing).—Length, half an inch; wings, half an inch and a sixteenth, of the ambry hue, with slanting dark lines on the sides.

Dark drake (watchet).—Hatching. (A leader with the craft).

Red drake (from the watchet).—Length, three-eighths; long fore-legs; out in the daytime and evenings.

Blue drake.—From a quarter to three-eighths, of the brown tinge. Out and hatching. Numbers of empty creeper skins by the water edges.

Little red drake.—Length a quarter, some more; long fore legs. Out in the daytime and evenings.

Little dark drake.—Hatching, and out numerous in the daytime.

Iron blue drake.—Hatching daily.

Pearl drake.—Out daily.

Light dnn.—Half an inch to five-eighths. Hatching in the daytime, and out in numbers in the evening.

Freckled dun.—Out and hatching.

Little brown dun.—Hatching and out. Some three-eighths. Cigar-brown wings; amber body, tinged pink.

Spinner (smaller species).—Out about the waters and in the fields all day, often numerous.

Late black spinner or gnat.—Many out all day.

House, lion, and bank flies, blue bottle, golden-legged, bronze beetle.—Out all fine days.

TWENTY-FIFTH.

Orange brown.—Full length, near half an inch and a sixteenth; wings, transparent ground, of a brown tinge, veined and crossed from the shoulders about half the length; back a rich dim yellow; breast, belly, and sides, tinged and touched darker; legs a dim orange, darkest at the joints.

Needle brown.—Hatching, breeding, and laying their eggs on the water, in great numbers, and best perfection. Eggs a cream color, on the last joints of the body.

Checkwing.—Hatching in good numbers and best perfection.

Red drake.—Fine and large. Length half an inch; wings half an inch; whisks an inch. Long fore-legs, slanting dark lines on the sides; amber body, with touches of darker on the upper parts; wings clear and crossed, reflecting red amber and gild. Out in the evenings.

Dark drake (watchet).—Hatching.

Red drake (from the watchet).—Out in the daytime, but most in the evenings.

Iron blue drake.—Hatching.

Pearl drake.—Out in the daytime.

Light drake.—Length a quarter. Wings of the light smoky blue of the sea swallow; body and legs a light dim yellow. Hatching. After casting, a light red.

Little dark drake.—Hatching. Length, a quarter or better; amber body, mottled with darker; and fine dark purple

water-hen wings. One cast its skin in the flybox; amber body, touched on the upper parts with fine dark brown; wings clear, glistening with red reflections.

Little red drake.—Out numerous, many on spider webs.

Little brown dun.—Out. Full length about three-eighths; brown, downy, fringed wings, with marks of lighter shade; body leady, and thickish in the middle; legs light.

Freckled dun.—Hatching, and out in the daytime. Full length five-eighths; length three-eighths; top wings freckled with dark brown and fawn color; under-wings broad, and of a uniform blue bloa tinge; body fleshy and cylindrical, which, with the thighs, is of a leady hue, with the light side lines; legs lighter. When held to the light, is of a red brown tinge, showing the dark freckle on the wings.

Light dun.—Full length three quarters; length half an inch; feelers half an inch; eyes black; all the other parts of a light ambry bees'-wax hue; top wings slightly broken with faint marks and freckles. When held to the light, of a dim ambry tinge, shewing the freckle on the top, and plainness of the under-wings.

This fly was hatched in a water-pot, on the 26th instant, from a cod-bait creeper, which was put in the pot in May; water six or seven inches deep. It soon fixed itself to the side of the pot, near the bottom. Fresh water was put in night and morning, or rather oftener at first, and a gauze cover over the pot. When hatched, was found on the under side of the gauze cover, alive and perfect—the creeper skin on the surface of the water, and the empty artificial case attached to the pot where it first fixed.

Red dun.—Hatching, and out in the evenings and after dark. Full length an inch; wings seven-eighths.

Gravel spinner.—Found several flies on the under-sides of stones, by the water's edge, resembling this fly; round shoulders, striped light and dark brown, and about the same size and colors.

Spinner, little spinner.—Out among the grass most of the latter part of the day.

House, lion, and bank flies, blue bottle, bronze beetle.—Out, more or less, daily.

Several species of *ear wigs* out daily, three-eighths, black ones probably the most numerous; and vast numbers of *dark midges*, of the house fly shape, were pouring out of the water, and may be found on the under-sides of loose stones by the water's edge.

NOTE.—This is a good angling month, and may be called the April of the later season. Trout, grayling, and smelt, are all good, although the trout may be somewhat declining and the others improving. Much of the summer top food of the fish, flies, insects, etc., have disappeared, from the change of temperature of the air, which has not affected the waters; they are full of creepers, and are turning out numbers of flies daily. Many of the favorite aquatic flies of spring are in full force and numbers this month. Their shades of color must be attended to, and their sizes and parts natural in their imitations. The leaders for trout are nearly the same as for last month—the orange and needle browns, the checkwing, blue, dark, light, iron blue, and coral-eyed drakes, are taken as they hatch and come on the waters.

OCTOBER.

THE cold breath of Autumn which creeps up in the dark, and shrivels the leaf, spares not the summer fly; they dwindle away with the declining warmth of the sun; still the waters, faithful to their trust, on genial days pour out

their winged tribes. Grayling and smelt, fat and well favored for the remainder of the season, furnish the sport of the small flyfisher. Farewell, Trout! my old and charming acquaintance, fare thee well in peace and security until we meet in other days. Thou art the best trump in the streams; thy beauty, thy cunning, and thy courage, I ever admired. How have I loved to tackle thee in the days of thy freedom and prosperity. I have delighted to deceive thee in thy prime and ruthless moments; but I ever detested the snare and the lyster; nor is the *grey fly** in my list. Neither would I disturb thee in thy connubial joys, or persecute thee on those days when thy spirit is subdued by adversity; no! I would then succour and protect thee. I now beseech all men to spare the trout, take or touch him not until the returning sun rouses him again to action. Drained are the riches of his delicate flesh, and dimmed and dusk his late lovely sides; but a "change has come o'er the spirit of his dream;" a honey drop creeps in his blood and fevers in his brain—one feeling influence the females; and an upward movement commences—the males follow—when every matured trout in the broad trunk of our river and all its branches, to the twig rills of the hills, are in a state of emigration, higher up the waters.

OCTOBER FIRST.

Orange brown.—Out in small numbers.

Needle brown.—Numerous, hatching and breeding.

Checkwing.—Not many.

Dark drake, iron blue drake.—Hatching.

Light drake.—Hatching. Length, better than a quarter. Sea swallow and orange, or yellow.

* Poachers' term for the Net.

Little dark drake.—Hatching.

Pearl drake.—Out in small groups on fine days and evenings.

Red drake, little red drake.—Out on fine days and evenings.

Light dun, freckled dun (numerous), *little freckled dun.* Hatching, and out on fine days and evenings.

Red dun.—Out on fine evenings; of a cinnamon hue.

Spinner. —Out on fine days.

Little spinner.—Numbers in fogs and grass on fine warm days and evenings.

House, lion, and bank flies, blue bottle.—All out on fine warm days.

SEVENTH.

Orange brown.—Few in numbers.

Needle brown.—Out, hatching, and breeding in full force and numbers.

Dark, little dark, light, and iron blue drakes.—Hatching and out on mild fine days.

Red and little red drakes.—All out in the daytime when it is fine.

Freckled dun.—Out in good numbers at noon.

Little freckled dun.—Out on mild fine days.

Light dun.—Full length half an inch. Wings a light red brown ground, beautifully freckled with spots, patches, and marks of a darker shade, and a light staddle on the upper edges; legs and body a light yellow soap transparency. Hatching and out on fine days and warm evenings; and may be seen flying about the water or on the bridges after sunset.

Spinner, little spinner.—Out in good numbers on fine days and warm evenings.

House and lion flies. —Out numerous.

Blue bottle, bank fly.—Out on fine days.

THIRTEENTH.

Same as the seventh, except the *orange brown* and *iron blue drake.*

TWENTIETH.

Needle brown.—Same as the seventh or thirtieth of August.

Little red drake.—Out in the daytime.

Dark, little dark, and light drakes.—Hatching on fine warm days.

Freckled dun.—Full length five-eighths; back leady; belly light ash, with brimstone-colored side lines; top wings freckled light and dark red brown, to look through of a chesnut tinge, with shades of bloa. Numbers out at noon, sporting about and running on the leaves of alder trees, etc., by the water sides.

Red dun.—Out in the evenings. Full length an inch; cinnamon hue.

Light dun.—Out in the evenings, same as on the seventh. Numbers on the North Bridge after sunset.

Little freckled dun.—Saw some out, weather very mild.

House and lion flies.—Out.

Bronze beetle.—Out numerous on fine days. Numbers may be seen on the North Bridge; and several of the *ear wig* species, the three-eighths black, most numerous.

Bank fly.—A few out at noon.

NOTE.—Leave we the trout, in his fence months, monarch of his brooks—the Laver and Skell—and pass to the spacious Ure—the track of the salmon and the home of the grayling. Fish the resort of the smelt and the grayling, but avoid the trout—kill not the goose for the golden egg—and protect the fish as you would the fowl. All the flies mentioned in the extracts for the month have been out or hatching on or about the days mentioned in them. Towards

the latter part of the month their existence hangs in the balance, and, like the flyfisher's sport, depends on the weather. The browns and drakes may best furnish the favorites, with the lion, house fly, and bronze beetle. The duns are much out on fine warm days and evenings; and the ear wigs are numerous. The needle and orange brown, the dark and light drakes, with the small black silver and golden hackles, may be fished in the daytime; towards evening, small red drakes and the duns.

NOVEMBER.

ARDENTLY the trout pursues his unknown and oft difficult track, dams or obstructions, or the most furious rapids, stop not the fury of their ardour. By the eve of St. Martin* the lengthened lines halt; the files take up their ground—the chosen stream and place—their journey's end and sum-

* On the 28th of November there were some sharp splashes in the water a little above Skellcrooks dam; on peeping unperceived over the edge of the bank opposite the place, there were several pairs of trout laid in the water. It happened to be their spawning time. They were not in the descending or streamy part, but in the tail-end of the deep above, where the water runs shallow over the gravel, similar to the gravelly shoal just above the North Bridge, where we see grayling spawn and copulate the beginning of April. The female trout kept her station in the spawning bed, with but little motion, except every four or five minutes she ploughed up the gravel with her nose, which seemed to be her own peculiar task. In doing this she turned herself nearly on one side, and with very quick motion of tail and body, thrust her nose against the gravel, which swam down about her and muddied the water, but showed the quick light glishes of her silvery sides. The male kept in constant motion, about half to a full length behind, hovering over her and veering from one side of her to the other, but could not perceive that he ever touched her. His business seemed solely then to watch and protect her. He frequently and furiously darted at other trout, which was the cause of the splashes in the water that first attracted my notice. These attacks were sudden and quick as lightning, they scarce could be seen before the male was with his mate again. The spawning beds seemed rather hollow and the gravel bright. In about a week after, weather and water much the same, there were no splashes, and the trout had settled into the dam below.

mit of their joys. In a few days after the streams are deserted; no longer is the sovereign trout the companion and compeer of the roughs and the rapids; slimy and shrunk in the still dungeons of the deeps, whither they congregate for safety and for succour—dimmed, lank, and lousy, he passes his cheerless Christmas, there to bide his time. Grayling and smelt, the treasures of the Ure, may continue to give sport to the flyfisher, in the frostless hours of noon, if flies be on the wing.

November comes, when the remnants of annual life must totter to their fall. Few are the flies and short the intervals of flyfishing during the days of November, a noontide hour or twain, and the curtain drops for the season.

NOVEMBER FIRST.

Needle brown.—Out daily in full numbers and perfection.

Light, dark, and little dark drakes.—Hatching and out on fine warm days.

Red and little red drakes.—Out on warm days and evenings.

Light and freckled duns.—Out in the day and warm evenings. Found two or three of the latter under a stone, as if just hatched; length half an inch.

House and lion flies, and bronze beetle.—Out in good numbers, with the *ear wigs.*

Red dun.—Out on fine evenings.

TENTH.

All the same Flies as on the First.

TWENTIETH.

Needle brown.—On fine days in full numbers and best perfection. Hatching, copulating, and laying their eggs on the water.

Light, dark, and little dark drakes.—Continue to hatch, more or less, as the weather and water permit.

Red and little red drakes.—Out on fine days, but less in numbers.

Freckled and light duns.—Out on fine days and warm evenings, but not numerous.

Red dun.—Out on fine evenings.

House and lion flies, and bronze beetle.—Out in good numbers, on fine days, to the end.

Ear wigs.—Out numerous at the back end and close of the season, when many fall on the waters, and are taken by grayling and smelt. They vary from a quarter to half an inch in length. Some are red, others jet black, and are glossy. The short flappers of some are edged with amber, and, in the sun, throw off short gilded reflections, from a thin fine down. The three-eighths black are probably the most numerous. The black silver and golden hackle will imitate these insects if drest to shape and size.

NOTE.—The dark drakes bear cold days like the blue drake in the spring. According to observations of many years, the remnants at the close of the season are the needle brown, lion and house fly, the bronze beetles, and the ear wigs, with some small hardy gnats, beetles, etc., that are of no use to the flyfisher. The angling flies have dwindled away, a touch or two of frost and all the top food of the fish will be swept off. The needles are the last to give in; and imitations of bygone flies will not prevail. The fish will continue to rise so long as flies come naturally on the water, but not longer; they rarely rise in the absence of all top food. The hardy winter craftsman with his brandlings may pack his pannier with black fat grayling, but the flyfisher's occupation is gone; his flimsy foundations have perished; they were but a breath, subject to all the skiey influences, which begins and ends their career; and

the genial breath of air that imparts vigour and action to the flies, gives spirit and appetite to the fish.

FAREWELL, the homely village Inn! and adieu to the fisherman's revels! Farewell, flyfishers! The elements of your art are all laid prostrate; your sports get starved and solitary, and gone are the days of its charms; the scenes are changed; murky mists and rains, and ominous sable clouds now darken the shortened day; the torrent's roar swells in the gale, and howls and rattles through the leafless woods. The lightsome day, the leafy shade, and the flowery banks, have passed away. The warblers have fled, the lark, the blackbird, and the thrush, swelled their wild carol—but now they are silent all. Fishermen, farewell!

AUTUMNAL GRAYLING FISHING.

Coming as it does at the close of the trout season, this branch of flyfishing has many devotees among that class of anglers who are impervious to the discomforts of the weather, and who wish to continue their favourite sport to the end of the year, for even during December, should the water be low and clear, there are frequently days of fine open weather, when at noon time the fish will rise readily. As the author of this little work devoted more attention to flyfishing for trout than for grayling; and as during the past twenty years a number of killing patterns for grayling flies have been invented, I have thought it best to add a fresh chapter devoted entirely to that subject. The grayling is a great deal more capricious fish than the trout, the latter (if in the humour) rises boldly at your fly, sometimes with a considerable splash, but if he misses it, very seldom will he come again, unless under exceptional circumstances, Now a grayling will at times rise over and over again at your fly, and perhaps after missing it three or four times will be hooked and captured. I recollect once throwing over one eight times in succession, it missed the fly in each case, but I basketed him at last. You generally find that a proficient in this branch of angling possesses three important qualifications, viz., quick sight, a strong wrist, and sensitive touch, the first-named requisition being especially necessary, as the grayling is enabled, by its large dorsal fin, to rise so rapidly, and makes so little break on the surface of the water, that sometimes all that the angler sees is the gleam of its white belly, whereupon he should at once strike firmly but gently, otherwise possibly the fly will be

rejected; at another time a faint ripple on the surface and a slight tug is the only indication of a rise, and I have generally observed that the largest fish take the fly in this manner. What a delightful sensation it is when, upon striking gently, you experience the familiar steady pull and determined resistance of a fine grayling. Many writers of experience recommend fine-drawn gut for this kind of flyfishing, but for my own part I prefer single horse hair, being less liable to ravel with the twisting play so characteristic of this fish. The needle brown, cinnamon fly, red ant, orange dun, willow fly, and blue midge, are all excellent flies for grayling during the autumn months; and I can also strongly recommend the patterns given in the following list, having tested them practically for many seasons on both the Yore and Wharfe.

No. 1.—*The honey dun bumble.*—Body, claret floss silk, ribbed with bright peacock's harl, with a pure honey dun hackle wound on hacklewise. Remarks: this and the two following patterns are considered standard grayling flies on the Derbyshire rivers; they kill well when there is no particular fly on the water—in fact I rarely make up a cast in autumn without one at the point.

No. 2.—*The orange bumble.*—Body, orange floss silk, ribbed with bronze peacock's harl, and a pure blue dun hackle over it.

No. 3.—*The ruby bumble.*—Body, ruby-coloured floss silk, ribbed with bronze peacock's harl, and a dark dun hackle as in preceding pattern.

No. 4.—*The little chap.*—Body, the reddest strand of a peacock's feather, legged and winged hacklewise with a lightish dun hackle and mulberry coloured silk. Remarks: this is Mr. Ronalds' pattern, and is a first-rate killer; it may also be dressed as a winged fly, with a feather taken from the darkest part of a starling's wing; synonym, the peacock fly,

No. 5.—*The fog black.*—Wings, from a bullfinch's wing; legs, starling's hackle; body, puce-coloured silk, with a strand of magpie's harl to form the head. Remarks: this is a Wharfedale pattern, and should be dressed very finely, it is a good killer when the water is low.

No. 6.—*The red tag.*—Body, bright green peacock's harl, over which wind a red cock's hackle, wrapping in a scrap of crimson floss silk at the tail. Remarks: this fly is an excellent one to employ on days when there is no particular fly upon the water, the fish generally taking it below the surface of the stream; I believe that the pattern originally belongs to the Worcester district, a gentleman in that county being the first to introduce it to my notice, and since then I have had ample proof of its seductive properties on the Yorkshire rivers.

No. 7.—*The grey palmer.*—Cock's hackle, with black centre and whitish grey edge, ribbed with fine round silver tinsel, tying silk, black. Remarks: this pattern is one of the late David Foster's, the naturalist angler of Dovedale, and is a good killer during the autumn months.

No. 8.—*The winter dun.*—Body, flat gold or silver tinsel; wings, fieldfare; legs, light blue hen's hackle. Remarks: this also is one of Mr. Foster's patterns, and must always be fished as a point fly; I have killed grayling with it in December, not only when the weather has been bright and sunny at noontime, but with snow upon the ground; it answers well either in bright or coloured water.

No. 9.—*The quill gnat.*— Body composed of a strip of the quill from a starling's feather neatly rolled on; legs, dark blue dun cock's hackle, in some cases red hackle; wings, bright starling's wing; hook No. 10 or 11. Remarks: this is one of Mr. Francis' patterns, and it answers very well when employed on fine evenings during July and August.

No. 10.—*Dark grey midge.*—Body, brown or olive silk; wings, dark grey feather of partridge; legs, grey partridge

or grizzled hackle. Remarks: one of Jackson's patterns which he specially recommends for use during the late autumn and winter months—an essential point however is that it must be dressed small.

No. 11.—*The Francis fly.*—Body composed of copper-coloured peacock's harl, ribbed distinctly with copper red silk; hackle, medium blue dun; wings, two hackle-points of a grizzly blue dun *cock's* hackle (not a hen's), set well up. Remarks: this is a purely fancy fly, which was invented by Mr. Francis Francis; the author does not speak of it, however, as being a good fly for grayling, but thinking it to be a likely looking pattern, I had some dressed small on No. 12 hooks, and having tested it practically on both the Yore and Wharfe, I can testify from experience to its efficacy.

No. 12.—*Blue midge.*—Body, lead-coloured silk; wings, feather from a water-hen's neck; legs, grizzled hackle. Remarks: this is another of Jackson's patterns, and is a first-rate fly to employ on drizzling dull days in autumn and early spring, it must however be dressed fine and small.

These twelve patterns will, I feel certain, prove amply sufficient for killing grayling during the autumn months upon any stream where these delicate fish are to be found, but should the angler require greater variety, I can also recommend the following numbers of the author's flies, viz., Nos. 1, 6, 10, 11, 27, 28, 52, 55, 77, 80, 87, 90.

Another method of taking grayling during November and December, and which is practised a good deal by Yorkshire anglers, consists in what is termed in that district "swimming the worm." For this class of fishing a low clear water is most conducive to sport, and it is better if the angler can wade; the rod should be light, moderately stiff, and about eleven feet in length; the reel line must be a fine braided waterproofed one, to the end of which attach about two yards of fine-drawn gut, the hook a fine wire one, with a piece of stiff bristle tied in at the top of the shank

to keep up the head of the worm, fasten a single swan shot about twelve inches above the hook, and your tackle is complete; the best worms to employ are the small red ones always to be found in old rotten manure, and they should be kept ready for use in damp, clean moss; insert the point of the hook a little below the head of the worm, and thread it on, up to the projecting bristle, which will keep it in its place; leave the tail of the worm hanging loose; the bait must be swum about six inches from the bottom of the river by means of a very light cork or quill float, the angler wading carefully up stream, and trying every eddy or likely haunt for grayling within his reach; as soon as ever the float gives the slightest indication of a bite the angler must strike at once, gently but firmly, playing the fish out in the water which he has previously fished through. The artificial bait known as the "grasshopper," and which is such a deadly lure on the tributaries of the Severn, does not seem to "take" on the Yorkshire streams. I have tried it on several occasions, but with no results. I must not forget to advise my readers to give a gentle strike at the end of each swim when fishing the worm for grayling, as very frequently the fish will take it very quietly just as the bait rises from the bottom, and then the above-named precaution generally results in the capture of the fish.

To myself, and no doubt to many other brothers of the angle, autumnal grayling fishing has a peculiar charm; the calm declining days of September and October, when the sun sheds his warm rays over the golden stubble fields and the gorgeous ruddy tints of the fast changing foliage; the soft murmur of the stream, with ever and anon the silvery gleam of the shadowy grayling as he rises at a passing fly; the slender rod, the gossamer tackle, with the smallest of artificials attached, all tend to make up a most enchanting picture of the gentle art, especially to the eye of a born angler; just in the same manner as the sportsman of another

class welcomes the 12th of August or the 1st of September, so does the enthusiast in grayling fishing hail with delight the approach of the autumn months, and if he be fortunate enough to reside in a district where this handsome and sporting fish abounds, weather and state of the river permitting, he is able to carry on his favourite sport up to the close of the year, instead of laying aside his fly rod in September, which he would be obliged to do if trout only were to be met with.

ON CREEPERS.

ALL the flies of the browns, drakes, and dun classes, are bred in the water, from eggs or spawn laid on its surface by the females. These eggs or spawn become animated and hatch the young insects, which grow in the water the same as fish, in the same shape and to the full size of the bodies of their parent flies, when they are called creepers. These creepers are cased and sheathed in a thin waterproof skin, which protects and fits them for the occupation of the water until they are matured for a change; the skin is then split open at the shoulders, and the fly is hatched, leaving the empty creeper skin behind, as a bird does its shell.

A description of the creepers of two or three species of the flies of each of these classes, may suffice to give a knowledge of the whole, sufficient for the purposes of the flyfisher.

CREEPERS OF THE BROWNS CLASS.

The females of this class may be frequently seen on the tops of posts and rails, battlements of bridges, etc., exuding their eggs as they stand, which adhere to their bodies on the first and second joint of the belly, and which they flap off on to the water with their wings. The eggs of different species vary in color. The creepers resemble, in shape and construction, and also in sizes and colors, the bodies, legs, etc., of their parent flies. Their creeper skins are thicker than those of the drakes and duns, and most of them beautifully marked and lined with dark brown on the top of the head, shoulders, and down the back. They are very active, and run as quick in the water as the flies do upon land, until

the time when they produce their flies; they then repair to the shallows and edges of the streams, to fix to some substance preparatory to their hatching. Some leave the water and run up the stems of plants that grow by its side, and fix to the under-sides of leaves, but according to observation, by far the greatest number fasten themselves by the belly and under-parts with some sticky matter peculiar to them, to the under-sides of stones that lay just without the edges of the water, which enables the flies to split open their creeper skins at the shoulders, and unsheath their legs, whisks, and feelers. Numbers of the empty creeper skins may be seen on the under-sides of stones taken up by the hand, just without the edges of the water, and often the new-hatched flies beside them.

1st.—Stone Fly Creeper.—Length about seven-eighths, head, shoulders, body, legs, whisks, and feelers, resembling those of the flies, but more bulky, and the legs are fringed; ground color of the upper parts, brown, of lighter or darker shade, distinctly lined and marked with dark brown; belly and under-parts shades of yellow. At the time of hatching they repair to the edges of the water and fasten themselves to the under-sides of stones, where they hatch their flies, and are found by the natural flyfisher; but soon after they find other places of repose. They are the largest creepers, and produce the largest and master fly of the angler's list. In April they are in perfection, and are found under loose stones that lie hollow in shallow streamy places, and near the edges of the water. Trout roam in search of them.

2nd.—Needle Brown Creeper.—Shape and size nearly similar to those of the bodies, legs, etc., of the flies. Colors brown, of lighter or darker shade. Is the smallest creeper, and produces the smallest fly of the browns class. Numbers of them may be seen on the under sides of stones, taken up

from just within the water's edge, and their empty creeper skins on those without. They are hatching, when the weather is open, nearly the year round. Some of them leave the water with their wings only in the bud, and may be seen running exceedingly fast on the tops of posts or large stones by the water sides, when the sun shines warmly upon them—query, are they males?

3RD.—YELLOW BROWN (Yellow Sally).—Length, about three-eighths, more or less; legs and whisks yellow; head, shoulders, and body, yellow ground, marked on the upper parts with dark brown. Is a beautiful little creeper, and may be found when the water is low, under stones by the sides and in shallow runs, at the time of hatching, when they fix themselves to the under sides of stones just without the water's edge.

All the creepers of this class are readily taken by the fish, but they instinctively keep themselves close under the stones.

CREEPERS OF THE DRAKE CLASS.

NO eggs have been seen attached to the bodies of the females of this class, but from their frequent dropping upon the waters it may be supposed they then deposit the germ of their creepers, which have an uncouth appearance when compared with their neat trim flies. The heads of most of them are large and round, particularly those species which produce flies with large gogling and case eyes; their shoulders are round and made larger by the enclosed wings; the body and whisks are similar to those of the flies, but more bulky, and the whisks, legs, and some of the joints of the body set with fine hair, which flows and moves in the water, and may answer the purpose of fins. The smaller species require looking at closely to distinguish them. They are of a jelly-like transparency; the colors and marks of the

fly appearing through their thin creeper skins; they are much quicker in the water than the flies are upon land, up to the last moment before hatching. Some species may fix themselves to something, but it is certain that the greater part, if not the whole class, hatch themselves on the top of the water, and spring on the wing from the empty creeper case as it floats on the current.

4TH.—GREEN DRAKE CREEPER.—Length, about three-quarters; two short feelers, two or three whisks, which, with the legs, sides, etc., are fringed with hair. Ground color a lightish green, shewing, in the dim transparency, the dark marks of the fly within. Shape similar to the body and parts of the fly, but bulkier. A fine small line is visible betwixt the shoulders, where the creeper skin splits open at hatching; the same may be seen on the shoulders of the protective skin of the fly. They are generally in deeper water, and hatch on the surface.

5TH.—BROWN DRAKE CREEPER.—Length, half an inch; legs, whisks, feelers, and sides, fringed with fine hair, which flows and moves in the water. Is a broad and thick creeper, with largish head, altogether of a light ambry brown ground, touched and marked on the upper parts with darker. The checkwing creeper is nearly similar. Both shew the slanting dark lines on the sides, and hatch on the top of the water.

6TH.—CORAL-EYED DRAKE CREEPER.—Length, about three-eighths; whisks a quarter; legs, whisks, feelers, and body, fringed with fine hair, and of a dull dim amber transparency; eyes a deep red brown; wings shew through their thin creeper skins like an oblong black mark on each side of the shoulders. Hatch on the top of the water. Like the browns, the creepers of this class are readily taken by the fish, but preserve themselves in the same way.

CREEPERS OF THE DUNS, OR CASED CREEPERS.

NATURE has changed her operations in perfecting the dun tribes of flies. The females carry and lay their eggs or spawn upon the waters the same as the browns, and like them, the dun creepers are naturally cased in a thin skin to protect them whilst in it; but when the eggs of the duns are hatched, each infant creeper singularly composes an artificial case around it, which it increases in size and substance with its growth. These artificial cases are a hollow cylinder of tough texture and smooth insides. The creeper in its progress covers the outsides with rougher materials, such as small pieces and knobs of sticks, stems, straws, particles of sand, soil, etc., etc., which are fixed to the outside by an adhesive matter, peculiar to the creeper. When a full grown creeper is taken out of its case, its appearance is that of a dull sluggish grub, with but little animation or resemblance to the bodies of their flies. Their legs are short, their motions slow, and they would soon be devoured by the fish had not nature endowed them with the instinctive power to compose an artificial covering around them for shelter and protection. When in motion the head and shoulders come out of the case, which sets their short legs at liberty, and the case and creeper move together. When the creepers are full grown they prepare for a change, and ramble in search of a biding place to fix to, as we sometimes see the stickbait crawling at the bottom of the water, often against the stream; for it seems to be instinctive in the aquatic flies to move upwards same as the fish. They in general fix themselves to the under-parts of stones that lie hollow in the water, and protects them from the violence of the stream, where they remain in a fixed and dormant state for two or three months, or until Nature has finished her work and the fly is matured. The creeper then leaves

its fixed dwelling, and rises to the surface of the water, where the creeper skin is split open at the shoulders, like the browns and drakes, and the fly takes wing, or paddles to land. Many take their first rest under loose stones by the water's edge, where they may be found; but after taking wing find other places of repose. In this way all the dun tribes of flies, from the least freckled to the red, progress to perfection, from the egg to the fly in the water. The soft empty creeper skins (scarce the thickness of a minnow's bladder) float away on the top. The empty artificial cases remain in their original places until washed away.

7TH.—RED DUN CREEPER.—Length, five-eighths to three quarters. Head, shoulders, and legs, black or dark brown; body, a dark dirty shade of yellow or amber. Length of case better than an inch, covered over with small short pieces and chubby knobs of bits of sticks, of a black appearance, which probably imparts a dark shade to the fly. Is the largest creeper and fly of the dun class. They are found under stones in shallow streamy runs, but are not so numerous or good to find as the cod and stickbait. The drawing represents the case and fly of 30th August.

8TH.—LIGHT DUN CREEPER (codbait).—Length, half an inch; head, legs, and shoulders, black; body yellow. Is the lightest colored creeper, and produces the lightest dun flies; their stony covering imparts no dye. Length of case three quarters to an inch, cylindrical, and rather bowed; is studded rough on the outside with particles of sand, which presents a piece of tesselated work which would puzzle a Roman. They lie under stones in shallow currents that run over sand and gravel, which their rough-cast coats exactly resemble, and keeps them safe at anchor. Several may oft be found under the same stone. They are good

for trout and old smelt in April and May, fished on the fly hooks. They may be kept in water pots, for use, or until they fix and hatch, by keeping the water fresh; close thick woollen bags (to exclude the air) are the best to take them out in, now and then dipping them in water.

9TH.—FRECKLED DUN CREEPER (stickbait).—Length, half an inch; head, shoulders, and legs, black; body a light blue dun. The vegetable appendages impart a dye which freckles or darkens the stickbait tribes. Length of case about three quarters, with its appendages of stems, etc., to an inch and a quarter. Their buoyant dwellings compel them to choose still waters, but in their rambles for fixing they oft may be seen propping and contending against the stream.

10TH.—LEAST FRECKLED DUN CREEPER.—Length better than one-eighth; head, shoulders, and legs black; body leady; case near a quarter, covered smooth with fine brown soil, and looks like a short piece of rusted wire.

NOTE.—The remaining portions of the creepers of these three classes have their growth in the water, and hatch their flies in the way that has been described. The creepers and flies furnish the greatest portion of the insect food of the fish—the choice of trout, grayling, and smelt, and the select of the craft the season through. They may be termed the regular forces of the flyfisher, for nature has bound each numerous swarm—when its time comes to appear and shew itself on the water—to the fish, every day of their duration. The land flies and insects come on the water by accident, and never so numerous or ever so regular. The creepers tell the forthcoming of the flies. The streams of Ripon abound with every variety; in fine weather and low waters they may all be found at their times, under loose

stones that may be taken up with the hand within the edges of the stream—the rough cases of the duns sheltering under or attached to the stones—the browns and drakes scampering about for cover again. They will hatch their flies in water pots if not disturbed, and the water kept constantly fresh. They draw to the edges of the waters, towards their maturity, and as the season advances, and in summer, they swarm with them, when the waters run quick with life, as the poet sings :—

> "See through this air, this ocean, and this earth,
> All matter quick, and bursting into birth."

In addition to these three classes of creepers vast varieties of the spinners, beetles, gnats, midges, etc., are perpetually progressing and pouring their winged progeny on the waters daily throughout the season, making ample store and choice for the fish, and a task for the flyfisher to discover and imitate the fly they prefer.

ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

THE cottage holmster tanned and trained pockets his fishing book, no other book he wants, and wends his way with rod and pannier to his accustomed streams. His intuitive glance quickly catches the prevailing fly, when his ready hand as quickly creates the mimic favorite that sends him ladened home.

The purpose of this book is to bring the natural flies before the eyes of the flyfisher, for the art of imitation is in much better perfection than the knowledge of the natural flies, and it is essential that both should be known alike. A lesson or two on the art from the profession or skilful craft, is much shorter and surer than book instructions. The following observations may furnish some necessary and useful hints.

The weather affects the stomachs of fish, and greatly varies their appetites. During pending rains and easterly winds they are dull and abstemious, when few are taken by the flyfisher. When the atmosphere is genial the trout, under cover of thick waters, dark nights and cloudy breezy days, or in the absence of top food, is often as voracious as the pike—he scours the streams and margins of rivers in search of substantial bottom food, when he will chase minnows until they fly out of the water, and runs at any sizeable living thing that comes in his way. His dart and his grab is like the cat with the mouse, when his prey rarely escapes, or him the baited hook; although daring,

he is very cunning and acute in seeing and avoiding danger. In colored or clearing waters he will oft run great risks, when it is evident he is aware of danger. He will cut away the tail-end of your minnow or strip it off the tackle, and adroitly avoid the hooks; or if struck, his desperate blast to dislodge them oft sends the minnow several inches up the gut, and his game and struggles are those of the salmon tribes. He will feint and gambol with your fly or bait, and dash it with his tail; but the artful dodger has been stayed by the tenacious hook in his slippery side. After rapacious nights he grounds himself alone in his haunts by the side of a stone until roused on his fins again by the flutter of the new-hatched flies above his head. He then takes no notice of the minnows, or the minnows of him, save giving him way as he moves, like other inferiors. When the fly he selects comes in good plenty he refuses all others, until he is satisfied or the supplies cease. Such is the trout—the most beautiful, cunning, and courageous of all the finny tenantry of the streams—the leading customer of the small flyfisher, with whom he has to deal in open day, and mostly in clear water; and for whom he must assimulate his wares to such as are issuing on the market from nature's storehouses, and are in immediate request.

Grayling rise boldly and freely at the top food of the season, and often give capital sport to the flyfisher. They have their choice and favorite flies, but are not so tenacious or scrupulous as the trout; they are a more simple and more social fish, gliding together in the eddies and stills of moderate depth, that lie betwixt or close to the streams. They spawn the beginning of April, and are in best condition in autumn.

Smelt are expert flycatchers—the readiest customers of the small flyfisher; from August to the end of the season the streams up the Ure are full of them. They occupy the same haunts and places the old ones had done before them. On fine days and low waters imitations of the small lively

colored aquatics of the day, and small hackles, with a maggot at each, cast into the short runs and ripples of stony streams, are irresistible. Towards the end of autumn they verge into the deeps, where they remain until spring summons them away, when they offer good sport all along their line of march to salt water. A shoal will straighten the flyfisher's line at every cast, when the kicks and flings of these tiny sportlings may suggest the furious tugs and struggles in store for the angler, when he holds at bay the full-grown king of the fishes.

The sizes and situations of the component parts of an artificial fly must be the same as those of the natural ones, or as near as materials will allow. If a drake fly be hatching, and the fish watching and feeding upon it, in order to deceive them the wings, legs, head, shoulders, and body of the artificial drake must be the same in sizes, situation, and outline, to those of the natural fly. The length of the fly gives the length of the shank of the hook required. Artificial flies are winged with slips or cuts from the inner web of the large feathers. They are hackled by winding the stem of the feather tightly over the shoulders, keeping the fibres free. The flies in the list are divided into seven classes, being of seven different shapes. The same shape of the natural flies in each class must be given to their artificial imitations.

The Browns require the cylinder-like form of head, shoulders, and body, in their proportions, for they are the bulk and substance of all flies, from which the wings and legs are but shades and offshoots. Body, half length, of eight or nine rounds of suitable sized silk, which is the number of joints. Winged on the middle shoulder, and legged at the breast. Hackled on the second and third shoulder, the fibres of the feather to lie down flat at the stem, by the action of the water, and close over the back and sides in the wire-like form of the closed wings of the flies.

The Drakes.—Head acccording with that of the fly ; shoulders short, and thickish ; body, above half length, rather smaller to the end ; wings on the mid shoulder, to stand up like those of a butterfly, slantwise over the body ; leg at the breast ; hackle over the mid and third shoulder, the fibres of the feather to start upwards from the stem, and have a natural tension in the direction of the wings of the flies. If the color of the feather suit for both wings and legs, pinch the upper fibres together for wings, and trim, and shorten the under ones for legs, which is the shortest way of dressing a fly, and often done by the craft. The glittering wings of all the drake tribes, after casting their skins, are best represented by the glittering cock hackle feathers.

The Duns.—Small heads, and small jumped-up shoulders ; body rather fuller, and better than half length ; wing near the head, and leg at the breast. Hackle on the shoulders near the head ; the fibres to close flat at the stem by the action of the water ; for if they appear thick at the shoulders when the fibres of the feather are closed, the shape of both these flies and the browns is lost.

The Spinners.—Small heads, large round shoulders, bodies cylindrical, near two-thirds the length. Wing or hackle on the shoulder, leg at the breast.

The House Flies.—Head, shoulders, and body in their proportions thickish ; body somewhat oval, and about half the length. Wing on each side of top of shoulder, to lie horizontal and point more or less from the body ; leg at the breast ; hackle over the fore-part of shoulder. The proportions of this class rather vary.

The Beetles.—Head small ; shoulders and body growing broader, into an oval form ; body about three-fifths of the length ; wing where the shoulders and body join, to close over the back ; leg at the breast ; hackle for under-wings close behind the top ones.

The Ant Flies.—Largish head, thick shoulders, small waist, plump oval body, thickness of the shoulders, and near or about half the length of the fly. Wing on each side of top of shoulder, to slant upwards and from the body; leg at the breast. May be hackled over top of shoulder, and trimmed for legs.

The colors, shades, and reflections of the natural flies must be imitated, as well as their sizes and shapes. Defects in any of these lead to disappointment. Books are imperfect guides to colors and shades. To pursue the art to its best perfection, it is necessary to take the first steps. The materials for an artificial fly should be compared and matched with the natural one, by the eye and judgment of the flyfisher. The top and under side of feathers, for wings, must resemble, and the transparent tinge, with any marks or freckles, must match that of the natural fly. Take the dead fly on a needle point, and compare it with the artificial materials. Match the wings with the feather; the body with silk; legs with hair, etc. Hold them together, side by side, up to the light and in the sunshine, and look through them as we may suppose the fish do, turning them into different positions in order to catch their foundation colors, with their tinges, reflections, and hues. This gives the flyfisher a grounded knowledge of the natural flies; and the materials once selected and proved, become familiar in his mind and items in his book, with which he can afterwards picture life with but little trouble, and fish his flies with the greatest confidence.

Feathers for wings must be small fibred, close and thin, of silky surface and transparent texture, that will least shrink or change color on the water. Fine old glossy birds, about Christmas, produce the best. The length of the wings of the fly gives the length of the fibres of the feather. The olden craft selected the barred feathers from the inside and outside of woodcock wings, for the barred wings of the

early and light brown, the clouded feathers from under the wing of the hen pheasant, for the clouded wings of the March brown ; the partridge grey from the breast ; brown from the shoulders ; and spotted red from the tail for the veined and checkered wings of the Royal Charlie, check-wing, mottled brown and red-brown drakes. For the light and blue drakes (and the bloa shades of the plain wings of some others) they took from the starling, snipe, etc. ; and for the dark drake (watchet) from the waterhen. For the dark shades of wings of some others from the swift, black-bird, etc. For the wings of the freckled duns they took the freckled feather of the moorcock, where they found for others of the dark stickbait tribes, and for the tawny and light wings of the codbait tribe, the light, grannam, sanded, plover dun, etc., they took from the brown owl, landrail, dotterel, plover, etc. These feathers have been chosen by the anglers of yore to imitate the wings of these aquatic chiefs of the small-fly list, which are the principal flies they imitated. These feathers still hold good, their popularity seems to have outlived the flies. They are all fished by the craft, not at haphazard through the day, but on the days and at the hours when they, or such of them as shew themselves on the waters to the fish. If better matches are known or can be found in other birds, adopt them, for the flyfisher must look round for himself and scrutinise every fly, or he may often be deceived. All is, when his flies are like those the fish are taking, he will have the best chance of a kill. The feathers on the outsides of the dotterel wings, with light edges, assimulate naturally with the ends of the closed wings of several species of browns and duns, as they shew at the end of the body. The wings of many of the flies are thick and veiny at the shoulders, and the transparent shade lighter at the ends ; and the breast and shoulder in general shew a shade or two darker than the body. Suitable grounds with marks, mottles, etc., are oft to be

met with in the common hen, ducks, etc. Small flies, gnats, etc., require the finest fibred feathers; the small birds present a field not much explored. The feathers are picked from the neck, shoulders, back, rump, breast, and sides, and the outside and inside of wings; the fibres of the latter are straight, and some rather stiffer suitable for drakes. Silks, hairs, wools, furs, etc., must be of an elastic and transparent quality; for all the flies, as well as the more substantial food of the fish—such as minnows, bull-heads, loaches, worms, larvæ, etc.—are of a dim transparency; and all the flies throw off, more or less, tinty sparkling reflections, and shew rich transparencies, which, when aptly imitated answer better; dull opaque imitations are not natural to them. The noble Salmon takes not the glittering bait as children choose toys, but from the rich transparencies and sparkling reflections with which nature has tinged their insect food. Hairs, such as mohair, or from the hare's ear, shank, or other parts; or from the squirrel, or other animals of suitable fineness and shade, represent the natural gleam of the legs of flies much better than the formal and glittering cock hackle. The few fibres of the hare's ear, on the breast of the brown drake and checkwing, mingle naturally with the other parts, and make up the fly. Many flies are tinged of other colors and shades, with furs from the water-rat, mole, squirrel, etc. The blue drake is internally orange, but her thin inky skin tinges her blue, which is imitated with a few fibres of fox-cub down wrought in with the orange silk, but it should be used sparingly (in all cases), not to hold water or increase bulk, its purpose being to throw off the blue tinge of the natural fly. Many tinge with small strands of silk. Fibres from the peacock, and other feathers are occasionally used, as for the head of the coral-eyed drake, etc.; but their sizes must not exceed the bounds of nature, the object being to give to the artificial the same size and shape, and to throw off the colors

and tinges of the flimsy fabrics of the natural flies.

The air changes the hues of some of the new-hatched aquatics. The favorite spring fly of a successful craftsman was a small one dressed with orange silk and cock-pheasant's small purple hackle only. He knew nothing of the natural fly, which probably was the needle brown, then hatching in great numbers, but usually dressed with water-rail, swift, etc. It is very likely the purple hackle, when in or on the water, throws off the steely blue tinge of the wings of the newly-hatched needle brown. It is not every fly, from the most skilful hands, that pleases the bright eyes of the fish. If a craftsman makes three or four all of the same sort and materials, some will be preferred to others. Passing from Mickley to Black Robin with a brother or two of the angle, we bespoke a craftsman silently plying his art. He had only just begun. Said he had rose some good grayling, but they "wadn't tak hod." I saw him make three or four casts with his flies, which he watched as if they were alive, but with the same results. The fish rose, but turned tail without touching them. He turned aside to avail himself of the chance a change might give, saying he would dress them another or two of the same sort, "they'll mebbe like 'em better." Many a time that day I saw him with bent and quivering rod hurrying down the rough margin of the streams of Hackfall. Towards evening we repaired to Richard Heath's. Soon after Walbran came in, his ample basket was full of fine trout, grayling, and smelt, but principally large grayling, which were all soon caught a second time with the silver hook. The best like imitations can scarcely be pronounced good until tested by the fish. Hackled flies are generally better taken than those that are winged; but dress both, and give the fish which they prefer.

I have seen a craftsman sit on a stone, make short work and sound work of the checkwing. He took the partridge

brown and stripped the stem on both sides, to the few fibres he intended to remain, which he closed together with his lips, and then laid it aside. He waxed the ends of the silk, hair, and shank of the hook, whipping three or four open rounds of the waxed silk tightly up the bare hook to the top and turned near half way back. He then laid the waxed end of the hair within the hook and whipped them close and tightly together to the top, and formed the head. Waxing the silk at the lap, he plied to it a few hairs from a hare's ear, then laid the thicker part of the stem of the feather at the fibres, close to the silk at the lap, and whipped over it; then cutting off the surplus stem, whipped tightly down the length of the shoulders and fastened. He next took the feather in his pliers by the small end and wound it twice over the shoulders, tight as it would bear, keeping the stem straight by the twirl of the pliers; and the fibres pointing over the head, whipped it to, at the low shoulder; and, after cutting off the surplus, whipped tightly down to the bend and carefully back again, to form the body; then fastened, and cut the silk close off. He finished with a pin, separating and straightening the fibres of the feather, pinching the upper ones together for the wings, and trimming and adjusting the under parts, for the legs; then cast his fly on the water.

Absent or ill-made and ill-matched flies are bad to depend on; also flies of our own design or fancy; for we cannot design or finish equal to Nature. The best we can do is to copy her designs and finish after her in the best way we can. The first business of the small flyfisher is with the aquatic flies of the day, which, if he cannot see out or on the water, he may oft on spider's webs, or he may find them with their creepers at their times of hatching, at the edges of the streams, the same as the creeper and stone fly. An hour or two spent in research and observation at intervals through a season, will give a truer and more correct know-

ledge of the flies, and nature and system of the art, than many years of angling, and is often the shortest way to the favorite. The wheelings of the black and blue gnats, in sunny calms and clear waters—the trotting of the stone fly, and the majestic floating of the green drake—overmatch the craftsman's art. Nature reigns there supreme, when her own works only can avail the flyfisher. The first cast of his artificials comes the nearest; they float for an instant and oft flatter him with a rise, or by chance a fish, but in a cast or two more they are disfigured, dishevelled, and drowned, and so must continue during his sport. Many of the small flies perish at hatching and laying times, and are immersed in the water, when we may suppose they are taken by the fish. We may also suppose that good imitations, being somewhat elastic and of better stamina, will maintain their appearance better in the water than the drowned shrouded-up natural flies, and will better preserve their shape and expression, the gleam and tinge of lingering life, which is the test of the fly, and the attraction of the fish. Be these as they may, certain it is that the fish will readily take good imitations of the small fly they are feeding off, by the panniers of fine trout, grayling, and smelt, so frequently killed by the first class of small flyfishers.

These hints and observations are the leading landmarks and guides in the flymaker's track, paced by persevering craft to the last sentence; and if, flyfishers, these hours of idleness, casually spent in fifty seasons, give zest to the sport of your days and lend you a lift on your way, I'll not begrudge the years—if not, pace on, for I have done.

Note.—On our northern streams, such as the Yore and Wharfe, artificial flies are usually dressed hacklewise, and as a general rule they will be found to kill as well, if not better, than the winged patterns; the reason for this

may I think be found in the fact that in the rough, broken water which constitutes the greater portion of these rivers, the life-like and attractive movement of the hackle fibres proves more seductive to the fish than a sunken winged fly would do. On the more sluggish southern streams, a system which is styled "dry flyfishing" is greatly practised, and on several occasions on the Yorkshire rivers I have taken a good dish of trout by resorting to this plan, when I should otherwise have met with very poor success; the flies most suitable for this style of fishing are the up-winged duns, such as the "Little Iron Blue," "Olive Bloa," "Pale Blue Dun," "Quill Gnat," etc., etc.; the cast must be composed of the very finest drawn gut or single horse hair, and one fly only attached to the end of it; wading carefully up stream, the angler watches for the indications of a rising fish on the smooth gliding water at the head of a stream, and carefully measuring the distance with his eye, delivers his single fly lightly about a couple of feet above his intended victim, very seldom has the cast to be repeated, if your pattern is a correct imitation of the fly upon the water, whereas it is almost any odds against a sunken hackled fly being taken under similar circumstances. The late David Foster, of Ashbourne, was, I believe, the first to originate the plan of dressing flies similar to the above named with wings, which would retain an almost upright position when wet or subjected to heavy usage, and his method, as explained in his eminently practical work, *The Scientific Angler*, is as follows, he says:—"Let us suppose for the time being that the intending operator has already fashioned the body of the fly, and has in readiness the material for its remaining component parts, viz., the legs and wings; now instead of next placing the legs and lastly the wings, *he must reverse the operation* by attaching the wings first, the addition of the legs completing the process. . . . . The feather should also be ample in dimensions,

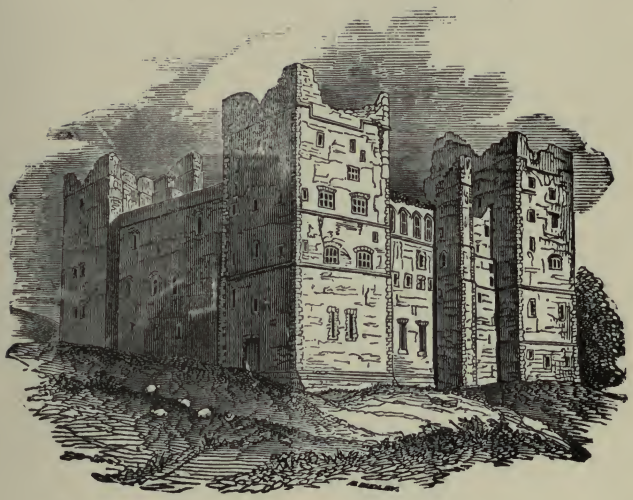
a half inch breadth of fibre from a small bird's quill feather, doubled so as to form the separate wings when attached, is about the amount that is requisite for the 'March Brown,' two-thirds of this quantity for the 'Olive Dun' order, and one half for the 'Iron Blue Duns.' After securing the wings, which should be about the length of the hook, thus a little longer than the body, they are placed in their correct position. The hackle, with which it is intended to form the legs, is then turned or wrapped into position *underneath the wings*, the whole being well supported by a few well-planted turns of the tying silk, which done, all that remains is for the silk to be knotted or looped off in the usual way, and your up-winged fly is complete." It is a very frequent occurrence for disputes to arise among anglers as to the relative value of winged or hackled flies; in my own opinion, both patterns answer well in their proper place, for in angling, as in everything else, "circumstances alter cases," and I always consider that an angler is only worthy of the name when he can adapt himself to such circumstances, contending with all the vicissitudes of water and weather by adopting some suitable method of his craft, and so prove himself master of the situation. —F. M. W.

THE YORE BELOW MIDDLEHAM CASTLE.

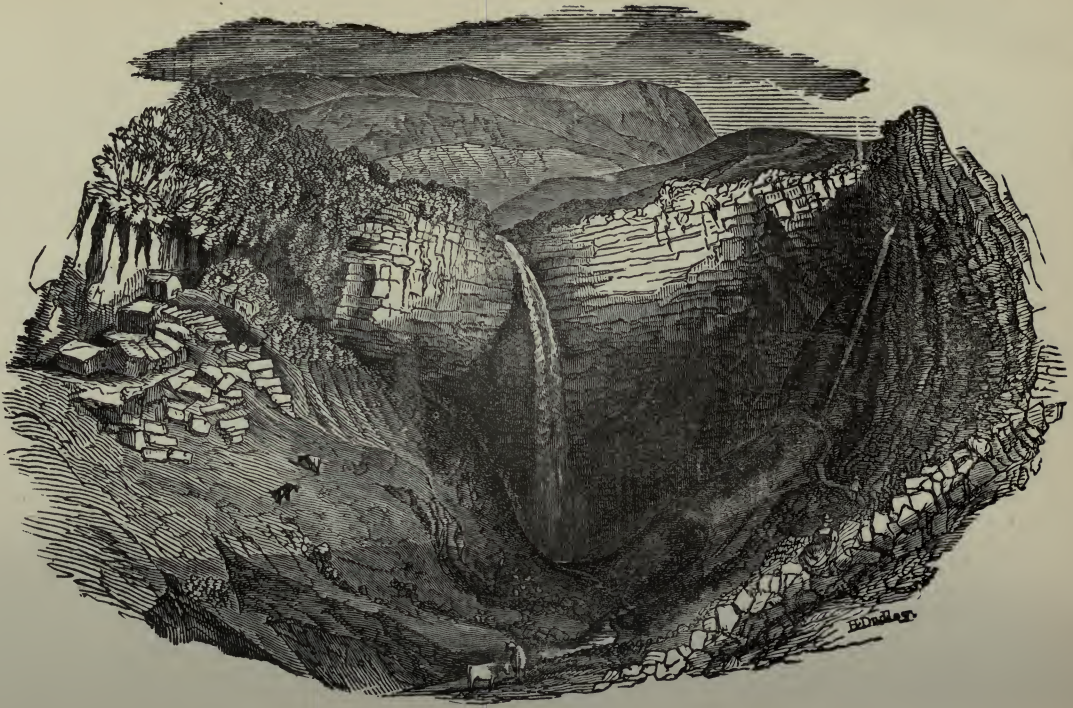
REMARKS ON THE YORKSHIRE RIVERS.

In the previous editions of this work, little or no mention was made of the angling stations on the various Yorkshire streams, therefore I have thought it best to add the present chapter in order to render the work more valuable. The river Ure, or Yore as it is generally spelt, takes its rise on the confines of Yorkshire and Westmoreland, the district between its source and the village of Hawes being extremely rugged and mountainous, and the breadth of the stream insignificant; several small becks enter it a little distance above the place named, and these contain a good number of small trout. From Hawes to Bainbridge, the whole of the river is preserved by the Hawes Angling Association; the water contains both trout and grayling, the latter predominating; the season tickets for residents are five shillings each per annum, cheaper ones, price two shillings,

being granted to the working class, tickets for non-residents ten shillings per annum or one shilling per day; inns, the "Crown" and "White Hart." At Bainbridge the addition of Lake Semmerwater increases the size of the main stream, but between here and Askrigg the fishing is utterly ruined by the incursions of the cowl netters, who kill large quantities of both trout and grayling at flood times, this nefarious practice is also carried on above Hawes, otherwise the Yore would be one of the finest trout streams in the north of England; possibly the new tax imposed by the Yorkshire Fishery Board upon all nets may bear good results—I sincerely trust that it may. Next comes the picturesque village of Aysgarth: here exists that splendid cascade of water rendered famous by the picture of it painted by the great Turner; it forms an inaccessible barrier to the ascent of salmon, hence no smelt annoy the flyfisher in the waters above; I would also recommend the tourist angler when at Hawes to pay a visit to a very fine natural waterfall situated about a mile from the village, and which is called Hardraw Scar; Turner also executed a painting of this charming bit of scenery; the fall is some seventy feet in height, and after heavy rains the volume of water thundering over the narrow ledge of rock into the stony basin below, is a sight to be remembered. Reverting to the Yore, Bolton Hall is the next place of interest past which it flows, and then comes the village of Wensley, from which this picturesque valley takes its name; the whole of the river here is strictly preserved. Next comes Middleham, renowned for its training stables, below which place the Cover enters the Yore; an angling club has been recently formed preserving a good stretch of both these rivers, and which grants day tickets to visitors, the secretary of this club is Mr. J. E. Miller, of Middleham, an ardent angler, who will answer any enquiry respecting the fishing, rules, etc.; the inn at Cover Bridge, kept by Mrs. Towler, is a



BOLTON CASTLE.



HARDRAW SCAR.

most comfortable abode to the wandering angler, and is well patronized during the season, but the accommodation being limited, it is as well to apply for beds, etc., beforehand. The hamlet of East Whitton succeeds Middleham, and thence the Yore flows past the ruins of Jervaulx Abbey, situated on the estate of the Marquess of Aylesbury; here Wensleydale terminates, and the water is more adapted to pike and bottom fishing until the angler comes to about a mile above Clifton Castle, where the streams recommence and continue almost to the little market town of Masham; the "King's Head" is the principal inn at this place, the landlord, Mr. Strickland, being able to give permission on a good length of water. About a mile below Masham the river Burn enters the Yore, but its waters are more suitable for worm and minnow fishing than fly. Following the course of the Yore, past Aldborough, we come to the magnificent grounds named "Hackfall," the property of the Marquess of Ripon; here the river, rushing through a rocky valley, surrounded by towering woods, presents a most tempting picture to the angler, rippling streams holding many a golden trout, quiet eddying flats on which the silvery grayling ever and anon glance up at the floating ephemeræ, quaint miniature castles and grottos perched up here and there among the sylvan groves—man's efforts to enhance the beauties of nature—what more can the most critical desire? In all my wanderings in search of my favourite sport, seldom have I met with such a lovely picture as can be met with here; visitors are permitted to inspect the grounds on payment of one shilling each at the gates, but the fishing is preserved for the friends of the Marquess, although sometimes a ticket for a day may be procured for a friend by a resident in the district. From the lower boundary of Hackfall down to the village of Mickley, deep water intervenes, and as the banks of the river here are densely wooded, there is no chance even for

the pike or bottom fisher to try his skill. Between Mickley and Tanfield there is fairly good sport obtainable at times, but in this portion of the Yore trout are not so plentiful as grayling and dace are; the streams are for the most part rapid and rocky, and are therefore well adapted to the trout, but I attribute their scarcity to the lack of suitable breeding becks, etc. Tanfield is a most picturesque little village, and moreover possesses historical interest, once being the home of the Marmion family, a portion of the ruins of the ancient stronghold is still to be seen, situated close to the tower end of the quaint old church; this last-named edifice was restored by Sir John Gilbert, and is well worth a visit. Mr. J. Kendall, the landlord of the "Bruce Arms," can grant permission to fish upon a good length of the river, and tourist anglers will find this a most comfortable inn to make their head quarters for the time being. Below the Weir at Tanfield the river is preserved; the mill close to it was formerly the home of John Jackson, who was then one of the most skilful flyfishers on the Yore, unfortunately he died in the prime of his manhood, but previous to his death he had written matter sufficient to form an excellent work on the flies found in the district, which book is now in its third edition, and is considered an authority on the subject. Ripon is the next station on the Yore which is available to the wandering angler. Mr. Thos. Judson, secretary to the Ripon Angling Club, will supply day tickets to strangers at 1s. 6d. each, these are available over about 6 miles of the river Yore, and as it is an alternation of streams and deep water, both the fly and bottom fisher can try their skill. The Unicorn Hotel is a capital Inn to make your head quarters, the landlord, Mr. R. E. Collinson, always being ready to oblige his customers in any way. The Ripon Angling Club also preserve the Laver and Skell, small streams in the district, but these are only fished by members of the club, some of whom take out

transferable tickets for friends visiting them. In these waters the trout are numerous, but are only of small size. The Laver joins the Skell, which is a tributary of the Yore, entering that river a short distance below Ripon; at this point flyfishing terminates, but in the deeps at Boroughbridge good sport may be enjoyed by the bottom fisher, and large pike are sometimes taken by spinning with either natural or artificial bait.

The river Wharfe has its origin in the moorland district situated in the north-west of Yorkshire, it is formed by the junction of two small streams, one of which rises above Kettlewell and the other near Arncliffe, they unite close to the village of Kilnsey. These two streams would both of them yield excellent trout fishing, were it not for the incessant poaching which is carried on in them; at Kilnsey, however, an excellent angling club has been established by a number of gentlemen, through whose energy and perseverance poaching has been effectually put a stop to on their portion of the river, and has caused it to be considered the best trout water in Wharfedale, or in fact in the county. The number of members is limited, I believe, to thirty, annual subcription £4 4s., but strangers who take up their quarters at the "Tennant's Arms" are allowed to fish the club waters on payment of five shillings per day. The inn is a well appointed one; and, providing that the angler meets with decent weather, and the water is in good order, I do not think he will complain about lack of sport, if he can handle a fly rod at all. There are no grayling in the Kilnsey water; I believe that an attempt was made some years ago to introduce them, but was unsuccessful, whether from the nature of the stream, or some other cause, I cannot say; however, I do not consider that the members of the club need regret the failure of their experiment, as I feel confident, from long and careful observations that I have had the opportunity of making on the river Yore, that

where grayling predominate, the trout as surely decrease. The river next flows past the villages of Grassington and Burnsall; at the latter place another angling association has been formed, which preserves a fine stretch of water. Here grayling abound, and attain a good size, so that the flyfisher has variety in his sport, though his pannier at the close of the day may not contain so many trout as it perhaps might do on the Kilnsey length. The day tickets on the Burnsall water are issued by the landlord of the "Red Lion" Inn, at a charge of 5s. per day; the secretary of the club, Mr. C. J. Critchley, of Ilkley, will readily supply any further information respecting the rules, etc. We next approach what is justly considered the most beautiful portion of Wharfedale, viz., Barden Tower, Bolton Woods, and the far-famed ruins of Bolton Abbey. One of the many delights that are known to the flyfisher is the beautiful English scenery that his favourite sport leads him to, and here indeed he will find it in all its varying forms, for I can say, without any fear of contradiction, that there are few beauty spots in England that can rival Bolton Woods viewed in early spring, when the tender green buds are bursting into life, and its many dells and coppices are resonant with the twittering of feathered songsters, when the mossy banks are stellated with clusters of primroses, wood anemones, and violets, and when the river, swollen by recent rains, thunders over the moss-clad rocks, the whole force of its current rushing through a narrow passage about four feet in width, where in days gone by, tradition states that young Romilly, the "Boy of Egremond," met with an untimely death whilst attempting to leap the chasm with a leash of hounds.

"He sprang in glee, for what cared he
That the river was strong, and the rocks were steep?
But the greyhounds in the leash hung back,
And checked him in his leap.

The boy is in the arms of Wharfe,
And strangled by a merciless force;
For never more was young Romilly seen
Till he rose a lifeless corse."

This dangerous point in the river is named the "Strid," which, I suppose, is a corruption of the word stride; and even now may be found persons who are foolhardy enough to attempt the feat, though they must be aware that a single false step means sudden death. Very beautiful, again, it appears in the full glory of midsummer, when the banks of the stream are clothed in thick foliage, and the stately foxglove rears its head among the tangled masses of bracken and ferns. Then the cool shade of its many glades forms a pleasant resting place for the tired angler, who perchance has been wading up stream all day in the heat of the sun, fishing with the little red worm on drawn gut in the diminished streams. Permission to fish in this portion of the river, viz., from Bolton Bridge to Barden Tower, may be obtained by staying at the "Devonshire Arms." The trout are pretty numerous, but owing to the fact that the river about here is very hard fished, they are very shy, and require the most delicate of casts, and a light hand in throwing it. From Bolton Bridge, down past Addingham to Ilkley, known as being a fashionable resort for Hydropaths, the river is preserved by the various landed proprietors, from whom permission is somewhat difficult to obtain. Below Ilkley Bridge are a succession of fine streams, to fish which tickets may be obtained from Mr. Kendall, landlord of the "Rose and Crown" Hotel, at a charge of 2s. 6d. per day; here also, as on the Bolton water, the fish are very wary, but at times some capital dishes are brought to bank, chiefly, however, by local experts, many of whom reside in the district. A stretch of preserved water again intervenes between the end of the Ilkley length and the market town of Otley; here a first-rate angling club exists, secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. M. Pratt, who is most indefatigable in his

exertions to maintain the welfare of the club, and is indeed well worthy of the respect and esteem in which he is held by his brother anglers. This club is also limited to thirty members, but no day tickets can be obtained; the rules, too, are strict, no wading being allowed before June, and several other restrictions; however, in the end, the members reap the benefit, and I wish with all my heart that the same rules could be enforced on several others of our Yorkshire streams that I could name. At Pool, which is the next station to Otley, Mr. Lodge, the landlord of the "White Hart" Hotel, has the power to grant permission to any anglers, staying at his house, to fish over a nice length of the river, which flows through two fields belonging to him, and which are situated behind his house, strangers however should write beforehand, as the accommodation is limited. The Wharfe next flows past the village of Arthington, and at that place day tickets are issued by the landlord of the "Wharfedale" Hotel, at a charge of one shilling each, and the river consequently being fished incessantly by Leeds anglers, little is to be done, even by a skilled hand, unless it be either in a coloured water or on a very favourable day. The cream of the fishing ends here, although there are some fine streams near Harewood and Collingham, but the river is preserved by the Earl of Harewood, and other riparian owners.

The next Yorkshire river of importance to the flyfisher is the Derwent, especially that portion in the vicinity of the fashionable watering place, Scarborough; about five miles thence, at Ayton, some excellent sport may at times be experienced on the fine length of water preserved by the Derwent Angling Club; day tickets may be obtained from Mr. Patrick, fishing tackle maker, Scarborough, at a charge of five shillings per day; on one portion of the river, near to Hackness, only artificial fly is allowed, and the angler's take is limited to ten brace of either trout or gray-

ling. The inn at Ayton is called the "Star," landlady, Mrs. Penrose. Scawby Beck, near Scarborough, also contains some very fine trout, but it is ruined by excessive fishing, and is also poached unmercifully; I believe, however, that a portion of it above the dam is now preserved; the landlord of the "Sands" Hotel (near the mouth of the Beck), also preserves a short length for the benefit of anglers staying at his house. Lower down the river, at Malton and Bubwith, the water is deep and navigable, but affords capital sport to the pike or bottom fisher; near to the first-named place grayling attain a larger size than upon either the Yore or the Wharfe—I have heard of them being taken up to 3lbs. in weight, while on the latter named streams one scaling 1½lbs. is a monster. The river Rye next claims our attention. This beautiful stream rises in Cleveland, and after flowing through Bilsdale passes the ruins of Rivaulx Abbey, the charming scenery by which it is surrounded making it by far the most picturesque of all the Yorkshire monasteries. The river at this point is strictly preserved by Lord Feversham, and to those who have permission, flyfishing is a matter of considerable difficulty, owing to the densely wooded nature of the banks. At Helmsley an association has been formed styled the Ryedale Angling Club, on their water trout and grayling are very abundant, as the river is thoroughly watched and preserved; below this point, at Nunnington, the river becomes deeper, and loses its interest to the flyfisher. I may add that the grayling on the Rye sometimes attain a large size, and I have been told of the occasional capture of trout weighing from 4 to 5lbs.

For the size and quality of its trout, however, there is no stream in Yorkshire which can compare with the Beck at Driffield, but the fishing is strictly preserved by a club of thirty members, beside whom no one is allowed to fish. One peculiarity of this stream is that upon it the "Green

Drake" is very plentiful during its season, but upon none of the other Yorkshire rivers, where the "Stone Fly" takes its place, and also its title the "May Fly," a fact which at times is apt to confound the tyro.

The river Costa, near the little market town of Pickering, is a winding, sluggish, chalk stream, closely resembling those of the southern counties, the water is clear as crystal, and the banks being for the most part open, the angler is compelled to exercise great caution in casting his fly; here also the trout and grayling run heavy, and as on the Driffield Beck, the "Green Drake" is a sure killer during its day. A club preserves this stream, but a member is allowed a few spare tickets for his friends; and I have been informed that recently worm fishing has been permitted to weed out some of the overgrown grayling which persistently refused to rise at any fly excepting the "Green Drake." There is some very fair flyfishing for trout and grayling to be had in Pickering Beck, and on that stream the fishing is free, but the fish do not attain to the size that they do upon the Costa.

The Swale rises in the same mountainous district as the Yore, but does not rank in the same class as an angling stream; in the upper portions, near Reeth, trout are plentiful, but run small; the "hush" from some lead mines situated near here has however tended greatly to deteriorate the fishing, which is not nearly so good, I understand, as it used to be. At the picturesque old town of Richmond fairly good fishing and comfortable quarters may be met with; and lower down the stream, at Brompton, Catterick, Skipton Bridge, and Topcliffe, though there are no streams to gladden the heart of the flyfisher, the pike, and bottom fishing for roach, dace, chub, etc., is of the first order; in the lower waters, occasional grayling are sometimes taken, but above Richmond they are not to be found, most probably owing to the impure state of the water.

Another Yorkshire river which has suffered greatly from the pollution of mine water is the Nidd. Flowing as it does through the delightful scenery of Nidderdale, past Pateley Bridge, Dacre Banks, Darley, Ripley, Knaresborough, etc., the whole route is marked by objects of interest, and the most tempting looking water, from an angler's point of view; unfortunately, however, in the upper portions, the fishing deteriorates year by year, in fact grayling, which used to be plentiful, are now extinct. An angling club at Knaresborough preserves a portion of the stream, but their efforts, I fear, will be of little avail until the evil referred to can be abated.

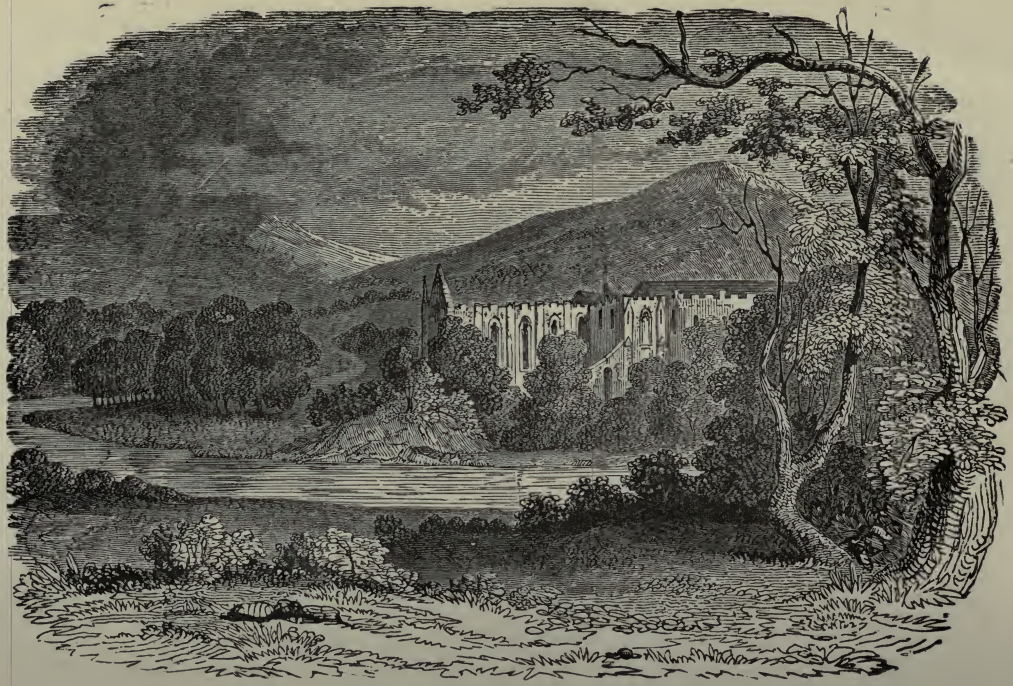
I have now briefly passed under review those of the Yorkshire rivers which are likely to prove worthy of a visit from the tourist angler; true, I have passed by the Aire, that tiny, sparkling stream which flows close to the quaint old town of Skipton, and which in its journey past Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, etc., gathers strength and filth until it finally reflects the glare of the furnaces of Leeds upon its inky surface; I have done so because the upper waters are strictly preserved, and consequently of no interest to my readers; the lower waters are obviously the same.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that some day, even though the event may occur

"In summers which we may not see,"

the inhabitants of large manufacturing towns such as Leeds, Halifax, Sheffield, &c., may be able once more to cast their lines in the now unfishable rivers Calder, Don, and Aire (in its lower portions), no doubt a great deal might be done to purify the filth that is now the means of converting these rivers into vast sewers, in fact I am acquainted with men, now living, who used to fish fly in the evenings for dace on a length of the Aire close to Leeds, where now the water is simply liquid mud. There is no doubt also but that the

river side would prove a greater attraction to many men than less innocent amusements, that is if the chance was afforded them; and if only for the sake of bringing about that desirable result, I earnestly hope that at no very distant date the legislature will give this important matter their careful attention.



ON THE WHARFE, BOLTON.

CASCADE IN HACKFALL.

A DAY ON THE YORE.

NOVEMBER had come round once more, bringing in its train the annual surfeit of gingerbread for the youngsters, to say nothing of squibs, crackers, coloured fires, and all the other invariable concomitants of the "fifth;" while at every corner you encountered small boys of all ages and denominations bearing in their hands wooden rails, scraps of miscellaneous timber or branches of trees, all of which articles were destined to take their part in the inevitable "bonfire."

But somehow or other, in spite of the appearance of all these things, it was hard to believe that November had really come; for day by day, instead of fog and mist, the weather was fine and open, reminding one of September and October (or rather say what those months ought to have been), until at last I could stay in town no longer; therefore packed up my fishing paraphernalia and made tracks northward to have a turn at the grayling.

Now to those of my readers who are not initiated in the mystery of angling, I suppose I had better explain before proceeding further, what a grayling is. I will attempt therefore to do so. It is a fish highly esteemed, both for yielding excellent sport to the angler, and for its edible qualities; but, unlike the generality of the finny tribe, it is only to be met with in some of our English streams,—the most noted being the Rye, the Wharfe, and the Yore, in Yorkshire; the Derwent, the Wye, and the Dove, in Derbyshire; the Severn, the Teme, and the Lugg, in the Worcester district; and the Itchin and the Test in Hampshire. On some of these rivers, especially the two last-named, they attain to a fair size, viz., 2 and 3lbs. weight, but on the Yore and the Wharfe a pound grayling is looked upon as being a good fish; while one of 1½lbs. is regarded as a monster. It is supposed that the monks of old brought them over to England from the continent, and as the streams containing them are usually found to have the ruins of a monastery situated upon their banks, the hypothesis seems a probable one. In appearance they are a slender, symmetrical fish, covered with bright, silvery scales, having a sheen of green and purple hues upon them when freshly caught, and the smell of them is exactly similar to that of a cucumber; an eminent writer on angling matters has described the trout as being the gentleman of the streams, and the grayling as the lady. I consider the comparison a very apt one. Grayling come into season with the autumn

months, and continue so until March, so that they are fit for the table at the very time when trout are not, which is another fact that speaks in favour of the monkish theory before mentioned.

As this is not a paper devoted to the science of angling, I do not purpose to enter into details as to the best methods of capturing this beautiful fish, although I have made that subject and their habits my study for many years; neither do I intend to relate the incidents of every day during my trip, lest I should bore your readers rather than interest them; but I will select one particular day, November 10th, and glancing at my angling diary endeavour to sketch out the brief outline of my day's sport.

"Now mind, Ralph, eight o'clock in the morning, not a moment later," I remarked to my companion as he wished me "Good night" at the door of that most comfortable of rustic inns, the "Bruce Arms," at Tanfield.

"All right," he responded, "I will be ready, never fear." So I turned in-doors, and after a final pipe of peace in the chimney corner, retired to rest, to sleep as only a tired angler can, and dream of endless sport on the morrow.

"Hallo! seven o'clock already?" I exclaim, as I am awakened by a loud tap at my bedroom door; and out of bed I tumble to inspect the weather. Not a very cheerful look out; an undeniable November morning at last, with any amount of mist and fog. Anglers, however, are accustomed to live in hopes, so comforting myself with the idea that the weather may clear up, I hurriedly dress myself, eat an excellent breakfast, and as the village clock strikes eight, sally forth fully equipped, and make for the house of my friend. I find him all ready, awaiting my arrival; we exchange the usual morning salutations, and, after lighting our pipes, shoulder our rods and step out briskly down the lane leading in the direction of Hackfall, at the top end of which we had decided to commence, he fishing for salmon and I for grayling.

To an admirer of nature, perhaps November is the most uninviting of any month in the year, even on the best of days. All the rich tints of autumnal foliage have vanished, and the naked boughs stand out gaunt and bare against the cold, grey sky; all the feathered songsters have fled to their winter retreats; the only signs of animal life being an occasional rabbit bolting across one's path, or the familiar form of a nimble squirrel darting to and fro on a leafless tree. The grayling fisher is apt to fall into an idle reverie as he plies his art, forming in his mind a retrospect of the days that he has spent upon the stream during the early months of spring, when the fresh green buds are bursting forth and all nature seems glad; or perchance he may picture a scorching day in the midst of summer, when the streams are almost dried up, and the smallest of flies mounted upon the finest of casts fails to deceive the watchful trout until the shades of evening begin to fall. Very different is the aspect of affairs today; thoughts such as these occupying our minds as we walk along; but here we are at the "Sand-bed Stream," so donning our wading stockings we step into the water and commence our fishing.

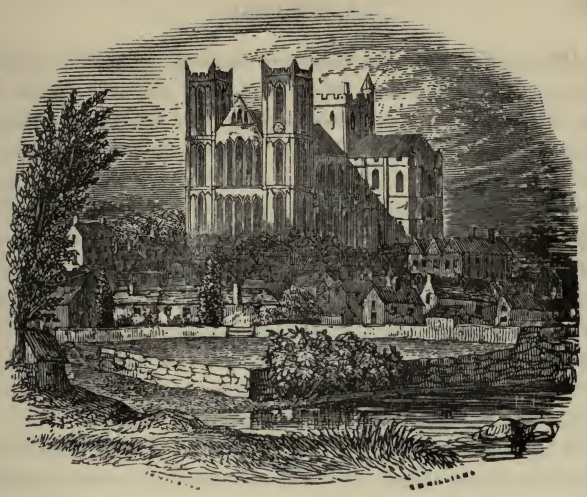
We had been at work for about half an hour, but with no good result; when suddenly a cry of "I have him," comes from my companion, and turning round I am just in time to see the gleam of a large salmon as he dashed out into the middle of the river. I immediately came out of the water, placed my rod and landing net upon the bank, and taking up the gaff, watched the struggle that had just commenced; at the onset the gallant fish rushed to and fro stemming the full force of the stream as only a salmon can, and bending the rod almost double by his efforts to escape; but tiring of this course of proceeding, he next descended to the bottom of the river and laid there as motionless as a log of wood. Suddenly, he comes again to the surface, lashing the water with his tail, and then merrily the reel

sounded as he made a brilliant rush down stream, running off the line as he went. In manœuvres such as these a quarter of an hour soon passed, and then for the first time since the struggle commenced the captive fish began to show signs of weakness, rolling over and showing his silvery sides as my companion gradually led him to the shallow water, where I stood ready, gaff in hand. Not wishing to spoil the appearance of the fish, I try to insert it near to his gills, but not being quick enough to do so, he makes another rush out into deep water. Again he is drawn gently up, and this time, after making another unsuccessful effort to reach him with the gaff, I throw it on one side, seize the fish by the root of his tail with both hands, and ran him out, head foremost, on to the gravel, a splendid salmon of 16lbs. weight. Great was our delight at such an auspicious commencement; but angling is undoubtedly one of the most uncertain of sports; for, although during the course of the day, my friend succeeded in rising other three good fish, fairly hooking one of them, the first was his only fish. On the other hand, I fished up to one o'clock and only basketed a solitary grayling; but after an *al fresco* lunch, I had a reversal of fortune, and when hungry and tired I reached my inn at five o'clock in the evening, I had twenty fine grayling in my pannier.

Halcyon days! from an angler's point of view, how pleasant it is to recall them to one's memory. Very many such have I spent on the banks of the stream that I love so well, and earnestly do I hope that many others are in store for me in the future.

I have wandered, rod in hand, along the banks of the winding Wye, and thrown the mimic fly upon the crystal waters of the Dove, admiring meantime the charming scenery of that lovely valley so dear to the memory of Isaac Walton, the father of all anglers. I have killed trout in the rocky streams of North Wales, and gazed on the glory

of the setting sun sinking to rest behind the mountains, but out of all the districts that I have visited in pursuit of my favourite sport, give me Yorkshire, my native county, with its hospitable, warm-hearted inhabitants ; and no pleasure is to me so enthralling as to wander along the banks of the stream that is so full of remembrances of my early youth, and where I have spent so many happy days in company with those whose faces I shall never see again in this world—the river Yore.—F. M. W.



RIPON CATHEDRAL FROM THE BANKS OF THE SKELL.

IN MEMORIAM.

And when the hand that casts the fly
  Can cast the fly no more;
And death shall land us fairly
  Upon that unknown shore,—
May we like yonder river glide,
  So calm, so peacefully,
From time, that owes us no regrèt,
  Into eternity!

F. FRANCIS (in "By Lake and River.")

SOME time ago, on a fine, bright summer's afternoon, I took my seat in a railway carriage to take a journey some forty miles northward on a fishing expedition. The guard had given his signal, and the train was just upon the move, when a gentleman, similarly equipped as myself, and evidently bound on the same errand, threw open the carriage door and jumped in; he seated himself opposite to me, and after a few casual remarks, we were soon conversing together in that sociable way peculiar to anglers when they meet.

After a while our conversation turned upon the subject of rods, my companion remarking that the one which he had with him was purchased a long time ago from a young man who was leaving England; he also mentioned that it had a peculiarity which he had never before witnessed in a fly rod, viz., that the joints screwed into their respective ferrules. I immediately asked him where the young man had lived, and on hearing that it was at Ripon, I felt sure that both the rod and its former owner were old acquaintances of mine. On the gentleman taking it from its case and showing it to me, my surmise proved correct,—it had formerly been the property of a cousin of mine, and who now, poor fellow, was lying in a foreign grave.

What a flood of recollections the sight of that old fly-rod called up to my mind; the remembrances of scores of happy days that I had spent with its owner in days gone by, and which now could never be recalled. Soon after my companion alighted, leaving me alone; I therefore fell into a kind of dreamy reverie, the subject of my thoughts being the incident just related; but of all the shifting scenes connected with my dead cousin's life that flitted through my mind in quick succession, I think the following three were most indelibly impressed upon it.

A bright, sunny afternoon in April, the air resounding with the shouts of a troop of happy schoolboys issuing from the doors of a large boys' school, situate in a cathedral town of Yorkshire. Apart from the others are two lads hurrying towards a trout stream which flowed at no great distance. One of them, your humble servant, the other a straight, active fellow, a few years my elder, my cousin, alluded to above. He was a perfect enthusiast in the gentle art, pursuing it in every branch, dressing all his own flies, and getting dishes of trout and grayling when no one else could do anything. Every half-holiday was he to be found by the river side, and on this occasion, eager to imbue me

with the same spirit, he had induced me to accompany him. We were soon on the bank of the river, which was just clearing off after a flood. How well can I remember every incident connected with that first lesson in angling; how patiently my cousin showed me how to put a minnow on the spinning flight, curving it so skilfully, that when drawn against the stream, it looked like one straight line of silver, and how expectantly I looked on, watching anxiously the result. I had not long to wait. A sudden splash, the glimpse of a bright golden side gleaming through the water, and the bending of his rod, proclaimed the capture of a good trout. He soon had it tired out, and then showed me how to net it. This victim was soon followed by another, and then comes a third. I was delighted, never before having witnessed anything of the kind. From that very hour I was a fisherman at heart, and at the present time am quite as great an enthusiast as ever my cousin was. I only wish that I could add "and as great an adept."

Yes, every moment of that happy half-holiday comes now as forcibly to my mind as though it happened yesterday, instead of well-nigh eighteen years ago.

The next scene, some three years later, a bitter cold day in December, with a slight cover of snow upon the ground, the sky a steely blue, the hedges and trees sparkling with icicles. We had both left school now, and were about to enter upon the sterner lesson of life, viz., that of earning our own living; but still, every day that we could get, and the evenings as well in summer time, were devoted to our favourite sport. Under my cousin's tuition I had advanced considerably in the gentle art, and could now hold my own with most people; on the present occasion, however, we were on our way to a village some seven miles distant from Ripon to fish with worm for grayling, a kind of sport much in vogue on the Yorkshire rivers, and known among the angling fraternity as "swimming the worm." We reached

our destination, and commenced fishing about ten o'clock a.m.; it was cold work at first, until your fingers got used to it, but the fish were well on the feed, and that, in our eyes, made up for everything. Every now and then my companion's cheery "Holloa!" in the distance would announce another addition to his basket, to which I in turn would respond.

It is a most killing method of fishing for grayling during the winter months, that is for anyone who understands the habits of the fish, and who is impervious to the discomforts of the weather.

And so the short winter day wore on, all too short to our minds; darkness fast approaching compels us to desist and adjourn to the little country inn. We had tea there, and after a short rest in the chimney corner set off back on our seven miles walk, rendering the darkness cheerful with joke and song. I find on reference to my angling diary that on the day alluded to my cousin's take was twenty-seven grayling, my own nineteen.

Again, two years later, the scene this time, not the rippling trout stream in the April sunshine, or the bank of the river in its wintry garb, but the crowded railway station of a large manufacturing town. I can hear now the noise and bustle, the shouts of the porters, and the shrill whistles of the engines, and see my cousin's handsome face looking earnestly into mine, as he pressed my hand in a last farewell. Poor fellow! He thought, as many more have done, that he could better his position in a foreign land, and was then on his way to a seaport town to take ship to Australia. "I hope to come back some day, old fellow," said he, "and have many a happy day with you in the old spots. Good-bye. Mind and write, telling me all the news. Good-bye." The train moved away, he nodding a last farewell, and his face passed away from my view for ever in this world.

I had several letters from him, and for a time he seemed

to prosper; then followed a long interval of silence, broken one morning by a black-edged letter informing me of my poor cousin's death. He had, it seemed, been mortally wounded in a football match, and after lingering in great pain for many weeks, had died, far away from all his friends and relations.

Poor W. N.; it is no foolish sentimentality that causes me to pen these lines, but simply a wish to pay a slight tribute to your dear memory; and possibly many will read this short retrospect who bear still the same loving remembrance of you that I do, and who will join with me in the earnest wish that your spirit has fled to that unknown land, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."—F. M. W.

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THE City of Ripon is charmingly situated near the centre of the country of York, and about midway between Edinboro' and London. It enjoys a sheltered situation, declining from the north-west towards the confluence of the river Yore with the Laver and the Skell; over the former of which there is a handsome bridge of seventeen arches, 256 yards in length. The Tourist or the Angler can make this a most convenient centre from whence he may plan easy excursions, whether pedestrial or for pursuing the "gentle craft." The architectural antiquary will find himself in the midst of a district abounding in "hoary remnants of the past"—easy of access by rail or within driving distance. The excursionist will discover that a day will not exhaust the diversified beauties and attractions of Ripon, as the resumé here given will testify. The Railway accommodation is good, and affords excursions into Wensleydale either by the Masham or Leyburn Branch Lines. The villages along the line being capital headquarters for the Tourist Angler. The glories of the Vale of Mowbray are open to the tourist through the line of Railway between Thirsk and Malton. Ripon is also within easy reach for the inhabitants of the populous district of the West Riding.

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The CHAPEL OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, near the Railway Station. A fine Norman doorway, two altar stones, and a Roman pavement, claim the antiquary's special attention. The new Chapel is on the opposite side of the road, built in 1869.

The CHAPEL OF ST. ANNE, in Agnesgate, built early in the 15th century, is now in a state of picturesque decay. The chancel arch, stone altar, piscina, and other interesting relics remain. The Almshouses have been recently re-built on a site further back; the ancient living room, or *quasi*-nave being now entirely destroyed.

The HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, in Bondgate, owes its origin to Thomas, second Archbishop of York (1109). A modern Chapel and new Almshouses now occupy its site.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY, 4 miles distant, may be visited between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on week-days only—admission 1s. There is every accommodation at the Lodge for visitors. The Lodge Gates are a mile from the abbey, which is approached through the Pleasure Grounds, beautifully and artistically laid out. Passing into the immediate precincts of the Abbey, we see at once before us "a captivating scene of landscape and architectural beauty, and a highly interesting subject of contemplation." Views of the fabric from the Surprise, and from Robin Hood's Well and the Kitchen Bank, are very picturesque; the latter view giving a good idea of the extent of the establishment,

of which Mr. Walbran in his Guide Books thus speaks :—"Rising immediately above the foundations of the infirmary and other offices of the abbey, we see the several parts of the conventual church, chapel of nine altars, choir, transept, tower, and nave, successively developed; nearer us—and parallel with the south end of the transept—the chapter house; next, but placed in a contrary direction towards the river, comes the common house. After that the kitchen, with its tall chimney, and the court-house above. Then the refectory, with its graceful lancet lights; then, receding to the cloister-court, the buttery and its little garth; and lastly, in connection with the main structure, the vast range of the lay brothers' and guests' dormitory, stretching nearly from our feet to the nave of the church. Turning in the contrary direction, we may observe, on the slope of the hill above, a part of the wall which bounded the site of the monastery; the intermediate broken ground having been chiefly occupied by the common stable, guests' stable, barns, kilns, tan-house, bark-mill, dove-cotes, forge, and other similar offices. Of these, the Mill—to which large granaries were formerly annexed—is alone left entire, and will be observed immediately before us, shrouded in tall trees, and running on merrily, as in days of yore." All the styles of Architecture, from the late Norman Nave to the Perpendicular Tower—a very fine and almost complete specimen—are represented.—*See Walbran's Guide to Ripon and Fountains Abbey.*

The NEW CHURCH in Studley Park is a fine specimen of Early Decorated work, and will amply repay an inspection on the visitor's return to the Lodge. It was erected by the Marchioness of Ripon, who laid the foundation stone in September, 1871. The chancel enriched with marble and fresco paintings is very charming.—See *Harrison's Guide to Studley Royal and the Church of S. Mary.*

MARKENFIELD HALL, a large castellated structure—3 miles north-west of Ripon—was built in the time of Edward III., presents a fine specimen of those ancient houses of England, which from the increasing sociability, security, and polish of the times, began to arise during the reign of the third Edward.—See *Memorial Edition of Walbran's Guide.*

Bolton Priory, 24 miles from Ripon, 16 from Harrogate, and 6 from Ilkley, can be reached either by a direct drive, or by rail to Ilkley and thence by conveyance. "Of the many attractions which Yorkshire offers to the selection of its visitors, and to the frequent enjoyment of its inhabitants, none should be preferred to that of a 'Summer's Day at Bolton Priory.' Its elegant ruins, and its unusually picturesque scenery cannot fail to charm every lover of the beautiful in Nature and Art. There nature, and art, and time have worked congenially; and, over their united triumph, genius, and wisdom, and virtue, and all that can exalt and ennoble human nature, or invest one spot of earth with a superior interest, have shed their undying influence and associations. The ruins of this celebrated Priory stand upon a beautiful curvature of the Wharfe, sufficiently elevated to protect it from inundation, and low enough for every purpose of picturesque effect; in which respect, the competent judgement of Whitaker has pronounced that 'It has no equal among the northern houses—perhaps not in the kingdom.' Its site is so shut in by rising ground and embosomed in trees, that the visitor, who has come from Harrogate, across the wilds of Knaresborough forest, may not be aware that he is approaching it, until he is almost on the spot." Speaking of the Strid, Mr. Walbran says:—"About half a mile above Bolton the valley closes, and on either side the Wharfe is overhung by deep and solemn woods, from which huge perpendicular masses of gritstone jut out at intervals. For awhile, the river sweeps on in majestic undulations, exasperated by rocks and swelled by a tributary stream bursting from a woody glen, exhibiting its native character—lively, irregular, and impetuous. Then for a few moments it reposes by a delicious and verdant holm; lingering noislessly in the shade of luxuriant trees whose slanting boughs stoop to kiss its bosom. At length, its subdued and solemn roar, 'like the voice of the angry spirit of the waters' disturbs the deep solitude of the woods, and announces the tremendous Strid, where it suddenly greets the eye struggling and foaming in the narrow trench of the rock, through which the whole of the impetuous torrent is poured 'with a rapidity proportioned to its confinement.'" *Extracts from Walbran's Summer's Day at Bolton Priory.*

Brimham Rocks, 9 miles from Ripon, on the left of the Pateley Bridge Turnpike, is the frequent resort of Pic-nic Parties. It can be reached by rail, by alighting at Dacre Banks Station. "A collection of Rocks, various in forms as in multitude, extend over 60 acres of Moorland, from which varied and charming views of the country may be gained. The mighty hand of Nature has seldom left a more magnificent impression, than on this stupendous scene. Afar off, the swelling precipice seems crowned by the inextricable wreck of a long desolated city. At a nearer view, the grim and hideous forms defy all discrimination and definition; and, at length, when standing among them, our uncontrollable impressions continue to be of perplexity and astonishment. The Rocks are spread over a space exceeding sixty acres; and the whole group, from the vast extent and bulk of its component parts, will afford a striking proof of the supremacy of Nature, in her operations, over the boldest and most gigantic efforts of art; for Brimham, could it be transported to Salisbury Plain, would reduce Stonehenge itself to a poor and pigmy miniature. Elevated on the southermost range of crags, is a stupendous Rocking Stone, conjectured to weigh above an hundred tons, and visible even from Harrogate and the surrounding country. The rich and varied scene which may be enjoyed from the summit of this Rocking Stone, will amply repay the trouble, if it does not sometimes enhance the pleasure of its ascent. On the west, a glorious prospect may be again viewed of the Vale of Nidd. To the south, Harrogate, Harlow-hill tower, and other conspicuous places present themselves. In the distant and fading landscape, on the banks of the Yore, may be seen Newby Park and Hall, near Ripon; while many other interesting objects, which are pointed out by the guide, will be observed in the immediate foreground. Turning to the north-east, St. Michael's Mount again meets the eye, rearing its venerable and sylvancrested head from woods that embosom the majestic pile of Fountains, and many a scene worthy of a pilgrimage. The west side of the rocks terminates in an abrupt cliff, of considerable height, at the foot of which is a green plain, relieved—here and there—with large fragments of stone thrown from the beetling summit, or riven from the wide clefts, whence now the graceful foliage of the mountain ash, or the crisped leaves of the

sturdy oak, wave to the pure breeze, and shelter the wild hawk and timid ring-ouzle from the pitiless blast, or the fury of the gathering storm." A guide is in attendance, and there is every accommodation for visitors.—*Extracts from Walbran's Descriptive Account of Brimham Rocks.*—6d.

NEWBY HALL, the seat of Lady Mary Vyner, is 4 miles from Ripon, and contains a fine Statue Gallery. A new Church, between the Hall and the village of Skelton, has been erected in memory of Frederick Grantham Vyner, who was murdered by Greek Brigands. It is in the Early Decorated style, contains some fine sculptures, and the internal decorations are exceedingly handsome.—See "*Memorial Edition of Walbran's Guide;* and *Harrison's Newby Hall and the Church of Christ the Consoler.*"

TANFIELD, a picturesque village on the banks of the Yore, six miles from Ripon, may be reached by railway. There is a fine old church, containing magnificent sepulchral memorials of the Marmions of real History. At Thornborough—a mile hence—are some remarkable circular Earthworks. A full description is given in the large edition of *Walbran's Guide.* This is considered an excellent fishing Station. A pleasant stroll up the river bank will bring the tourist to

HACKFALL, where the river Yore ploughs its way at the bottom of a densely wooded ravine—withal a charming retreat. The Drive to Hackfall is most enjoyable—down shady lanes, ever and anon yielding extensive views of the distant hill country. This place abounds in lovely scenery of wood and water, rivalling even Bolton Woods. The climax, however, is reserved for "Mowbray Point," where every object may be seen that can impart to a landscape beauty, elegance, and sublimity, the sea alone excepted. From this point can also be seen Hambleton Hills, the towns of Thirsk and Northallerton, York Cathedral to the south-east, and to the north-east Roseberry Topping presents itself. Guides are in attendance, and Pic-nic parties are catered for at "Mowbray Point," and at the Entrance Gates. Admission, 1s.

ALDBOROUGH, the Iseur of the Britons and the Isurium of the Romans, is 7 miles from Ripon. A very interesting Museum of Roman remains, found here, is collected at the Manor House. About half a mile hence are the DEVIL'S ARROWS, near Boroughbridge. KIRBY HILL CHURCH, with its Roman, Saxon, and Norman Remains, should be visited on the return to Ripon.

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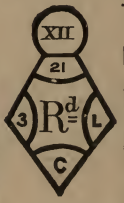

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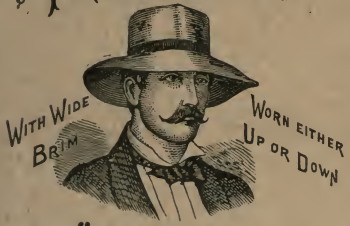

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